

March 28, 2001

**MINUTES: ARIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**March 16, 2001**  
**Windsor Court Hotel, New Orleans, LA**

Participants: Jean Bousquet, Chair, Paul van Cauwenberge. Co-Chair, Carlos Baena-Cagnani, G. Walter Canonica, Pascal Demoly, Stephen Durham, Richard Lockey, Ruby Pawankar, David Price, F. Estelle Simons, Antonio Vignola. WHO: Nikolai Khaltaev, ARIA: Anna Bedbrook, Larry Grouse. Not present: Nadia Ait-Khaled, Claus Bachert, Eric Bateman, Kai-Håkon Carlsen, Wytske Fokkens.

Sponsors: Lars Jacobsen (ALK-Abéllo), Neil Williams (AstraZeneca), Karen Brimson, Terekk El-Akkad (Aventis), Alan Wright (GlaxoSmithKline), Bryan Rafalko (Merck), Kristina Vincenc (Novartis), Alan Harris, Derek Maetzold, Phil Stearns (Schering-Plough), Paul Medeiros (Schering-Merk), Frank Cerasoli (Sepracor), Albert Saporta (Stallergenes), Alison Campbell (UCB).

**ARIA ORGANIZATION**

Professor Bousquet described the organization proposed for ARIA with this first meeting of the Executive Committee. Scientific issues related to the promulgation of scientific and educational documents will be supervised by the ARIA Scientific Committee, while the Advisory Committee will focus on the dissemination and implementation of ARIA guidelines and education.

**ARIA 2-YEAR PLAN**

The ARIA 2-year plan for 2001 and 2002 was described. In 2001 ARIA has published the evidence-based model for the management of allergy as a key component of asthma and rhinitis incorporated into the ARIA Workshop Report, Executive Summary, and Pocket Guide. ARIA will better assess the relationship between asthma and rhinitis in allergic patients and assess the interaction of non-allergic mechanisms on allergic diseases with an emphasis on the importance of tobacco smoke. In a collaboration with IUATLD, ARIA will adapt and implement ARIA guidelines for developing countries.

In 2002 ARIA will continue to implement the program of 2001 and will also organize a training seminar on the management of allergic asthma and rhinitis with special training and education for physicians and health care providers of developing and Eastern European countries in conjunction with EAACI, ERS, and IUATLD. ARIA will develop a session for the annual meeting of the 2003 EAACI, which will be chaired by Prof. Bousquet.

**WHO APPROVALS FOR ARIA**

WHO has approved the NGO status of ARIA, with the initial 2-year plan. The ARIA Workshop Report has been produced in collaboration with WHO.

**ARIA DOCUMENTS**

The ARIA Report will be published in JACI, while the Executive Summary of the ARIA Workshop Report will be published in Allergy. The Pocket Guide will be ready for EAACI and the slide kit will be completed by September 2001.

## **ARIA LAUNCH**

Prof. van Cauwenberge has worked with EAACI to select an appropriate time for the press briefing and launch of ARIA on May 11 in Berlin. The Press conference will be at the Press Center at the International Conference Center between 1 PM and 2 PM. Also on May 11 at 6 PM at the Hotel Intercontinental near the Conference Center there will be a meeting of the ARIA Executive Committee with the sponsors. For those sponsors with interests in the Asia-Pacific region there will be a meeting at 3:30 PM with Prof. Ruby Pawankar, the ARIA Chairperson in this region to discuss the upcoming ARIA activities including the Bangkok meeting in December, 2001. This meeting will also be at the Hotel Intercontinental.

During the press briefing there will be talks about what ARIA is, why there is a need for ARIA, what ARIA will be doing in dissemination and implementation, the ARIA program for developing and developed countries, and what ARIA has accomplished.

## **ARIA INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**

The thrust and leadership of the ARIA efforts internationally were discussed. In Europe, ARIA will partner with EAACI and will focus on primary care education. In South America, Prof. Baena-Cagnani will lead the ARIA implementation. In Asia, Prof. Pawankar will lead the effort. In North America, Profs. Lockey, Kemp, Meltzer and Simons will spearhead the educational effort. In Africa, ARIA will collaborate with Prof Ait-Khaled and IUATLD in this effort as well as with Prof Bateman.

Primary care efforts will take place in the UK on Sept. 7-9, 2001 in Manchester at a NARTC meeting and in Amsterdam in June of 2002 at the primary care respiratory group meeting as a part of the meeting of WONCA. In addition, Prof. van Shayck will be testing the ARIA documents with primary care physicians. Testing and education programs will also be implemented by Profs. Popov, Radu, and Szczeklik in the Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland.

Prof. Ait-Khaled and Dr Annesi will be involved in validating the important ISAAC study results that showed 49% of patients in African countries such as Guinea having rhinitis. ARIA will be funding these studies.

Prof. Pawankar has planned a major meeting in Bangkok in Dec. 2001 for ARIA implementation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prof. Baena-Cagnani has planned a WHO meeting in Argentina on August 17, 2001 that will also provide ARIA information.

## **WAO USE OF ARIA DOCUMENTS**

The World Allergy Organization (WAO) will be using the ARIA materials for their educational programs. The Executive Committee agreed that while ARIA materials will be used by key educational efforts worldwide, that no changes may be made to the content of the documents in their dissemination.

## **NEED FOR ARIA DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ASIA**

Prof. Pawankar presented data concerning the dimensions of the problem of rhinitis in Asia with possibly 50% of the global burden occurring there. There is evidence that the incidence is growing in Korea and other areas. Data show 30-50% coexistence of asthma and rhinitis in Asian studies.

In many parts of Asia there are no guidelines in existence. Work on epidemiology, socioeconomic impact of rhinitis, and patterns of therapy needs to be done and will be planned.

### **ARIA CONSTITUTION REVISION**

Since WHO regulations state that Dr. Khaltaev's role in ARIA cannot be as a member of the Executive Committee, he attends as a WHO representative. Accordingly, the ARIA Constitution and By-Laws were revised to reflect the correct status of the WHO representative.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Following the ARIA launch press conference in Berlin on May 11, the next meeting of the Executive Committee with sponsors will be held at the Hotel Intercontinental at 18h00 as detailed above.