

March 2, 2002

ARIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2, 2002
Hotel Le Parker Meridien, New York, New York

Participants: Jean Bousquet, Chair, Paul van Cauwenberge. Co-Chair, Nadia Ait-Khaled, Claus Bachert, Carlos Baena-Cagnani, Sergio Bonini, G. Walter Canonica, Wytse Fokkens, Roy Gerth van Wijk, Peter Howarth, James Kemp, Jean-Michel Klossek, Richard Lockey, Hans-Jürgen Malling, Ruby Pawankar, Ted Popov, David Price, Onno Van Schayck, Antonio Vignola.

ARIA: Anna Bedbrook, Larry Grouse.

WHO: Nikolai Khaltaev.

Excused: Isabella Annesi -Maesano, Kai-Håkon Carlsen, Pascal Demoly, Daryl Freeman, Valerie Lund, Ian Mackay, Eli O. Meltzer, Joaquim Mullol Miret, Ron Neville, Minoru Okuda, Anders Ostrem, Andrzej Szczeklik, Erkka Valovirta, De-Yun Wang, Geert-Jan Wesseling

Sponsors: Lars Jacobsen (ALK-Abéllo), Ana Cortada, Jesus Gomez, Joan Gispert (Almirall Prodesfarma), Neil Williams (AstraZeneca), Eric Abramson, Karen Brimson (Aventis), Rosemary Docherty, Mark Salyer (GSK), Bryan Rafalko, Bryan Porter (Merck), Keith Allan (Novartis), Angela Crossman, Alan Harris, Phil Stearns (Schering-Plough), Albert Saporta (Stallergenes), Didier Louapre, Sandra Stallaert, Bertrand Verwee (UCB Farchim SA).

ARIA LANDMARKS

Prof. Bousquet reviewed a history of ARIA's past activities as well as a summary of those planned in the future (Attachment #1). ARIA has been very proud of the publication of the full Workshop Report in JACI with the strong collaboration of AAAAI, which Profs. Kemp and Lockey greatly aided. More than 400 attendees came at 06:30 for the ARIA Symposium at AAAAI on March 2. Prof. Lockey's lecture in the ARIA program made the point that all allergists need to carefully read the ARIA Workshop Report because it makes clear what an important responsibility and opportunity they have to improve the lives of those with allergic rhinitis and asthma. Prof. Bousquet emphasized the importance of also getting the ARIA message across to primary care doctors throughout the world and endorsed the effort led by Profs. David Price and Onno van Schayck to produce a GP friendly adaptation of ARIA for primary care use through the Global Primary Care Airways project that will produce a single document with key information for diagnosing and treating allergic rhinitis, asthma, and COPD based on the GINA, GOLD, and ARIA guidelines.

Profs. Bousquet and van Cauwenberge thanked Dr. Nikolai Khaltaev for leading the way to the success of the ARIA NGO, partnering globally with the Chronic Respiratory Disease Program of WHO, which Dr. Khaltaev and his colleagues are leading. Prof. Bousquet heads the Collaborative Center for Allergy and Immunology for the WHO, which is headquartered at the ARIA Secretariat in Montpellier. And with the key contacts in medical science and throughout the developing world that arise from Prof. Bousquet's supervision of the Allergy and Immunology program at the Pasteur Institute there will be many ARIA research and education projects worldwide.

ARIA DOCUMENTS AND PROGRAMS

The ARIA Executive Summary is in press in the journal ALLERGY. The Pocket Guide will soon be translated into 49 languages as explained by Ms. Anna Bedbrook, ARIA Administrator (Attachment #2). The ARIA slide set will be updated with new data from Montpellier relating to intermittent and persistent AR and will be ready for dissemination within the next few months.

ARIA recommended the promotion of regional ARIA seminars. Prof. Pawankar described 10 regional Symposia in locations such as Thailand, India, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines involving their national societies. 16 societies in Asia have endorsed ARIA and 15 translations are in progress. An Asian ARIA web site is in construction. In addition, there will be a major international ARIA meeting in Bangkok planned for July 12-14; more details will soon be released.

Prof. Bousquet described the ARIA Update that is planned to ensure that the ARIA guidelines reflect the most current science. There will be 6 working groups operating from the Scientific Committee, using a database review similar to that which is being implemented in the GINA and GOLD programs.

A major project in the planning stage is an analysis of Occupational Rhinitis and Asthma.

Initial organizing of the GP ARIA guidelines will be taking place at the IPCRG, CAHAG, and GPIAG meeting in Amsterdam in June. Profs. Price and van Schayck will be working with ARIA in this important implementation of the ARIA program. Dr. Khaltaev suggested that when these guidelines are developed that a formal meeting process at WHO in Geneva with appropriate global representation could be conducted to make these official WHO communications.

Dr. Khaltaev summarized the Chronic Respiratory Disease effort of WHO. He emphasized the value for ARIA of working with the 6 WHO regional centers and 90 WR's. Especially in developing countries, informing and activating the background healthcare activities can be much more effective in implementing appropriate diagnosis and treatment than traditional efforts directed at tertiary care centers. The barriers to providing care can be more easily identified. Contacts that are made by ARIA representatives, particularly at the Health Minister level would be best coordinated with WHO.

Prof Nadia Ait-Khaled (IUATLD) reviewed the ARIA/IUATLD epidemiologic program in French Speaking Africa. With the collaboration of Dr Isabella Annesi-Maesano, a questionnaire validated in Europe (SFAR: Score For Allergic Rhinitis, Allergy 2002) is tested and compared with the questions on rhinitis of the ISAAC questionnaire. This ongoing study will make it possible to confirm the very high prevalence rate of allergic rhinitis in Western Sub-Saharan Africa.

Prof. Baena-Cagnani reviewed the ARIA programs in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Mexico. ARIA Activities through ALAT and ULASTER are also being planned. A Spanish translation of the ARIA Pocket Guide has greatly benefited the launches in Argentina and Chile. A major ARIA-IUATLD conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay involving 500 pulmonologists will be led by Prof. Baena-Cagnani on Dec. 10-12, 2002.

Prof. Ted Popov described major activities in Bulgaria for a Train the Trainer effort in AR and asthma. In Yugoslavia there will be other ARIA meetings. Prof. Popov is supervising 9 translations of the ARIA Pocket Guide with colleagues into Eastern European languages.

Prof. Bousquet summarized the thrust of ARIA to create a key research database in allergic rhinitis and asthma globally, to provide education to specialists and GP's worldwide, and to partner with outstanding key organizations such as WHO, EAACI, IUATLD, AAAAI among others to bring the message of improved care of patients with allergic rhinitis and asthma to all the people of the world. His agenda and detailed slides of the projects and meetings summarized in these minutes is the best record of the ARIA AAAAI meeting (Attachment #3).

NEXT MEETING

Prof. Bousquet and members of the Executive Committee are in discussion with EAACI concerning ARIA activities at the upcoming EAACI meeting. The next meeting of the Executive Committee with ARIA sponsors will be scheduled when these ARIA activities are set and all Committee members and Sponsors will be notified concerning the time and place.