

An important message from



Dear Colleagues,

We informed you earlier this year that *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (JACI) Editor-in-Chief Donald Y.M. Leung, MD, PhD, FAAAAI, was stepping down at the end of 2015, after more than 15 years of exceptional leadership and expertise.

As you know, a special task force was appointed to oversee the search process for the next JACI Editor-in-Chief. Rob Lemanske chaired this group, which also included: Andrea J. Apter, MD, MA, MSc, FAAAAI; A. Wesley Burks, MD, FAAAAI; AAAAI Executive Vice President Thomas B. Casale, MD, FAAAAI; Mariana C. Castells, MD, PhD, FAAAAI; AAAAI Secretary-Treasurer Thomas A. Fleisher, MD, FAAAAI; Theodore M. Freeman, MD, FAAAAI; Harald E. Renz, MD; and JACI: *In Practice* Editor-in-Chief Michael Schatz, MD, MS, FAAAAI.

The task force reviewed and scored the highly qualified applications that were received, managed the interview process, and presented their final recommendation to the AAAAI Board, which was approved unanimously at its meeting last month.

At this time, we are excited to officially announce that Cezmi A. Akdis, MD, FAAAAI, and Zuhair K. Ballas, MD, FAAAAI, have been chosen to serve as our next JACI Co-Editors-in-Chief. Having a European-based Editor-in-Chief in addition to a U.S.-based Editor-in-Chief will allow the JACI to further expand its reach across the globe.

Both candidates exemplified the specific qualities we were looking for: national and/or international stature in the field of allergy/immunology, Fellow status in the AAAAI, and experience in journal workings with a vision for taking the JACI to an even greater level of excellence.

To give you an idea of their qualifications, Cezmi is Director of the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research and a Professor with the Zurich University Medical Faculty. He has been a JACI Associate Editor since 2007, has served on the JACI Editorial Board, and has also been involved on the Editorial Boards of several journals. Zuhair joined the University of Iowa Department of Internal Medicine in 1980 where he currently is Director of the Immunology Division. He is a long-time reviewer for the JACI, has previously served on the JACI Editorial Board, and has also served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Immunology*.

A transition plan is already in place. Beginning July 1, 2015, Cezmi and Zuhair will serve alongside Donald Leung until his term ends on December 31, 2015. The overlap of terms will provide continuity of leadership and facilitate the ongoing and future success of the JACI.

Please join us in congratulating our next JACI Co-Editors-in-Chief!

James T. Li, MD, PhD, FAAAAI
AAAAI President

Robert F. Lemanske, Jr., MD, FAAAAI
Chair, JACI Editor-in-Chief Search Task Force