13th LIPNIC (Ljubljana International Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care) Symposium

6 – 8 March 2014, Ljubljana, Slovenia (EU)

Dear Guests,

In March 2014, Ljubljana will be hosting the 13th International Symposium on Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care (LIPNIC) in these turbulent times of changing concepts in paediatric intensive care throughout the world, against a backdrop of new approaches to the training of paediatric physicians and nurses.

The stratification of paediatric intensive care units into different subspecialities (neonatal, paediatric, surgical, cardiac) brings with it a great threat because the critically ill child with multiorgan failure is not treated holistically. This is already a reality in many units on all continents. This is why emphasis on the standards required to run a paediatric intensive care unit is crucial, and must take account of human resources and equipment. The Symposium will focus on neuro-intensive care and explore different aspects in an attempt to establish minimum standards in this field of paediatric intensive care.

Nosocomial infection control in an intensive care unit is a never-ending story. The miracle solution to combating this problem effectively and at reasonable cost has still to be found. Policies have to be designed to suit local needs and healthcare systems. Despite this, there are some basic universal pillars of hygiene control that have to be implemented in every intensive care unit. And it is always worth revisiting these regularly so that they incorporate all new trends that help us in enforcing our systems of surveillance.

Simulation in medical education has changed the way we train our intensive care physicians and nurses and is a fact we have to live with. An adequate number of safe procedures, structured approaches to clinical problems, effective team leading – these can only be achieved in a simulation centre. Our Symposium will be highlighting the best approaches to ensure successful outcomes.

Following the principle of teamwork between physicians and nurses, the Symposium traditionally has a medical and a nursing programme. The nursing programme follows the same principles and topics as the medical programme, and highlights the importance of an integral approach in intensive care, shaping its image healthcare systems, scientific development and – last but not least – society as a whole.
The 13th LIPNIC Symposium is dedicated to Metka Derganc, professor of paediatrics, who was the first director of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in Slovenia in the Department of Paediatric Surgery and Intensive Care, University Medical Centre, Ljubljana. It was in 1974 that the first critically ill children were treated according to the modern principles of intensive care, however, some critically ill children had an appropriate treatment even before. Her contribution to Slovenian medicine has been outstanding and it is impossible to list all her achievements. The most important aspect is that she laid the foundations and set the sails for the development of paediatric and neonatal intensive care in Slovenia and the region for generations to come.

Springtime in Ljubljana always attracts a lot of international participants to the Symposium, which this year again can boast some keynote speakers who are leaders on the international stage of human scientific research. The Symposium is hard work – so we deserve some recreation: as usual there is a varied social programme with something for everyone, and plenty of opportunities for networking.

Ivan Vidmar, President of the Organising Committee