

Dear PER-IADR friends and colleagues,

It has now been just over two years since I assumed the prestigious role of PER-IADR President. I want to thank you again for bestowing upon me this honor.

I have been very proud **to represent PER-IADR which remains, one of the largest, strongest and most active IADR regions.** Not only were we the first group to initiate a regional structure, but due to our success the rest of IADR has followed suite. Our organizational structure has never been flawless. Nevertheless we have persisted to **continue and promote the basic idea of regional teamwork.** We have collaborated and recognized that an international association is in need of an internal reflection of unique regional individualities. Diseases are often universal but the **solutions are cultural, local, economic and even political.** Furthermore, PER-IADR has successfully created a network of friends and colleagues, working together as a close knit family.

Without the **maximal support and fellowship of our Board and our Managing Committee,** I truly do not believe that I would have managed to cope. Of course, our superb secretary, Rosa Ciloglu, has contributed more than any of you can imagine. Thank you Rosa!

The period, during which I did my best to serve you was, of course, blemished by the daunting and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We have all learned that as much as we know and understand, we do not know and understand enough. **I believe that the pandemic has illuminated the desperate need for scientific data without political agenda.** We are undeniably aware that pathogens are blind to borders. All efforts at dealing with understanding, treating, preventing and curing simply have to be global! I believe that PER-IADR should be a strong advocate of this approach. We are first and foremost a health promotion association. **Within this context we should strongly support and voice our backing of the World Health Organization.** This is not a political standpoint but a scientific necessity.

The Presidency of PER-IADR is now passed over to Fionnuala Lundy. I am sure that we are in excellent hands and wish Fionnuala to steer us surely and securely, as I am sure she will.

Above all, dear friends and colleagues, please keep safe and well! Let us all hope and believe that we shall meet again. Not only virtually!

With much friendship, appreciation and admiration,

Harold

