

**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**

