



## News from the International HPH Network

# Legacy statement from the chair of the HPH Governance Board, Dr. Raffaele Zoratti

After four years, Dr. Raffaele Zorratti is ending his term in the Governance Board of the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals. Dr. Zoratti has for the last two years acted as the chair of the Governance Board, and the HPH Network would like to thank him for his dedicated work and leadership.

Dr. Zoratti have asked for the opportunity to thank the HPH Network and the many members for the support and encouragement he has experienced during his term as chair.

### Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you for the support and the opportunity I have had to serve the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services as Chair of the Governance Board (GB). It has been a wonderful and stimulating experience working with all the outstanding GB members, the WHO Collaborative Centers and the Secretariat. Thank you so much, really, to all of you!

I joined the HPH Network in 2012, as a delegate for the Italian National Coordinator at the 20<sup>th</sup> International HPH Conference in Taipei, and very soon I became involved in the GB, first as Vice-chair and then as Chair from 2014 to 2016. It has been an amazing and fruitful experience to participate in the board meetings, in the Age-Friendly Health Care Task Force, in the Scientific Committee for the HPH Conferences, and in the HPH-Award Standards and Strategy groups, where I had the opportunity to share my thoughts with you and improve the health promotion issues.

During these four years, I deeply appreciated your efforts in sustaining the HPH values in your hospitals and health services and spreading its mission in your countries, keeping in mind that at the centre of our work is the “person who needs care” and that our effort is “to take care of the patient”.

As a clinician, I would like to stress the importance of bringing health promotion inside the hospitals through:

- Interventions addressed to patients, staff and community on healthy lifestyle improvement;
- Continuity of care (integrated patient pathways between hospital, health services, community services);
- Patient education activities;

- Inter-cultural approach to hospital services with equity in health care for migrants and other vulnerable groups;
- Projects (Pain-free Hospital, Smoke-free Hospital);
- Staff safety;
- Reception capacity of the structures, resources re-allocation through lowering costs and increasing patient safety.

We have to support our hospitals and health services in promoting health and disease prevention, not only as a mere expression of goodwill by some professionals, but by attracting the attention of health professionals, administrators and institutions.

I’m grateful to see the good collaboration between the network members; I have to thank the Italian HPH Network for doing it in a time with shortage of economic resources; To put health promotion in the strategic lines to pursue an integrated governance of public health structures is a real challenge.

I am confident that the International HPH Network will continue to develop and expand under the leadership of the new chair, encouraging and supporting new members worldwide. Participation in the Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services Program represents an opportunity of improvement for hospitals and health services in their continuous effort to meet the complex demands from their stakeholders and to be an integral part of a health service network.

**Dr. Raffaele Zoratti**  
Chair of the Governance Board  
The International HPH Network  
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