

IGCS



**INTERNATIONAL
GYNECOLOGIC
CANCER SOCIETY**

**A MESSAGE FROM PROF. ROBERTO ANGIOLI, IGCS
PRESIDENT**

DEAR MEMBERS, COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS:

**I AM DR ROBERTO ANGIOLI, PRESIDENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL GYNECOLOGIC CANCER SOCIETY.**

**I AM IN MY OFFICE IN ROME REFLECTING ON THE
DEVASTATION THAT COVID-19 HAS BROUGHT TO US IN
ITALY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC IS A CHALLENGE UNLIKE ANY WE HAVE FACED
IN LIVING MEMORY. THE WIDE-RANGING IMPACT OF THIS
PANDEMIC ON OUR SOCIAL LIFE, HEALTH CARE AND
ECONOMY IS UNPRECEDENTED.**

**IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THAT LESS THAN 4 WEEKS AGO WE
WERE INTERACTING WITH OUR RELATIVES, OUR FRIENDS
AND OUR PATIENTS IN OUR NORMAL ENVIRONMENT; WE
WERE TREATING AND OPERATING ON PATIENTS IN CLINICS.
NOW ALL OF US IN THE WORLD ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND A
NEW NORMAL FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, SO THAT
WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE OUTSTANDING CARE
OUR PATIENTS DESERVE.**

**COVID-19 RESPECTS NO NATIONAL BORDERS OR SOCIAL
BOUNDS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY ALL COUNTRIES,
REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL, ECONOMICAL, SOCIAL,**

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY TO RESOLVE A COMMON PROBLEM.

HERE IN ROME WE ARE TRADING A LITTLE OF OUR FREEDOM FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF HUMANITY. I AM SURE THIS WILL MAKE US MORE RESPONSIBLE AND GRATEFUL FOR WHAT LIFE CAN OFFER. THIS WILL STRENGTHEN OUR SPIRIT, AND ALSO OUR COLLABORATION AND CARE FOR OTHERS.

MY SINCEREST THANKS ON BEHALF OF ITALY TO OUR CHINESE COLLEAGUES AND GOVERNMENT, WHO SENT US FACE MASKS AND EXPERT PHYSICIANS PUTTING THEIR LIVES AT RISK EVERY DAY TO HELP ITALIAN PEOPLE.

LIKE US, MANY OF YOU ARE, OR WILL BE, ON THE FRONT-LINE SUPPORTING PATIENTS AND FELLOW CLINICIANS, DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. WE AS GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY PROFESSIONALS, AS PHYSICIANS, AS HUMANS, CAN OFFER OUR ASSISTANCE.

IT CONTINUES TO BE A VERY DELICATE TIME HERE IN ITALY. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN NORTHERN ITALY WHO WERE THE FIRST TO SEE THE DEVASTATION OF THE VIRUS AND WHO STILL HAVE THE HIGHEST RECORDED DEATH RATE IN ITALY. IN ROME, WE ARE STARTING TO SEE EVER SO SLIGHT IMPROVEMENTS THAT WE CELEBRATE DAILY.

OF COURSE, THE UPCOMING IGCS MEETING IN ROME THIS SEPTEMBER IS ON OUR MINDS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY WITH REGARD TO

TRAVEL, ESPECIALLY FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR COLLEAGUES WHO WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL DUE TO COVID 19.

THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS AND HOPEFUL WE WILL BE ABLE TO HOST A ROBUST SCIENTIFIC MEETING AND BRING MANY OF US TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE COVID -19 DISRUPTED US.

IT HAS MEANT A LOT TO ME OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO HAVE HEARD FROM SO MANY OF OUR MEMBERS, ASKING ABOUT ME, MY FAMILY, MY COLLEAGUES IN ROME AND ALL OF ITALY. YOUR CARING AND COMPASSION IS WHAT HELPS IN THE DARKEST TIMES.

I AM GRATEFUL TO THE LEADERSHIP OF IGCS WHO HAVE BEEN SUCH STEADY LEADERS AND FRIENDS DURING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND TO THE LEADERSHIP OF MY HOSPITAL, CAMPUS BIOMEDICO UNIVERSITY. EVEN IF PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES KEEP US DISTANT, LET'S KEEP OUR HEARTS CLOSER THAN EVER. BE CAREFUL AND BE SAFE MY FRIENDS!