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Preface

Welcome note ICIC13 organizing committee

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Welcome to ICIC 13 in the beautiful town of Berlin. I first would like to thank Evert Jan van Lente and his colleagues within the AOK for their generous hospitality and work as hosts of our annual congress here in the capital of Germany - it is sincerely and greatly appreciated. I'll also like to thank colleagues from the Bundesverband Managed Care and the Robert Bosch Foundation for their generous support - this congress would not be possible without it.

In most countries in the World the effective integration of health and social care has remained either an unfulfilled dream or an unrealistic ambition. This conference brings together leading-edge case examples of how this has been achieved and it will undoubtedly show that local leadership, vision and commitment can overcome the many obstacles that exist to integrated care.

Due to the financial crisis affecting many countries, especially across Europe, funding health and social services is a big policy challenge. We are convinced that integration between primary health care and hospitals, between doctors and nurses, and between health and social services offers the right answers to this challenge by being able to add value to care without increasing costs.

During our previous conferences in San Marino (2012) and Odense, Denmark (2011) we identified four key and recurrent themes in building effective integrated systems of care that require in-depth discussion during ICIC 2013 in Berlin. These themes we discuss over the next two days are:

1. Finding the right funding methods and payment incentives;
2. Improving continuity of care and care co-ordination, particularly for persons with chronic multi-morbidity;
3. Finding the right organisational solutions to integrated care; and
4. Understanding the best implementation strategies.

We welcome many keynote speakers and abstract presenters who will provide us with many of the answers to these key challenges. However, they will not have the final answer. As an interactive congress, we believe only in the 'wisdom of the crowds' and that by bringing together scientists, innovators, professionals and policy makers together is the key to creating and transferring knowledge on integrated care.

This is also the first year in which our conference has been led through the newly formed International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC). IFIC is a non-profit and membership-based foundation with the mission to build a network that crosses organisational and professional boundaries to bring people together to advance the science, knowledge and adoption of integrated care policy and practice. The Foundation seeks to achieve this through the development and

exchange of ideas among academics, researchers, managers, clinicians, policy makers and users and carers of services throughout the World.

Over the next year and beyond, our Foundation will be led by a Board of individuals drawn from many countries and driven by a dynamic executive team led by our first CEO and co-Founder, Nick Goodwin. A wide range of activities are already in place, including: the publication of our scientific periodical, the Inter-national Journal of Integrated Care (www.ijic.org); the leadership of INIC's Annual Congresses and other events and study tours; involvement in key research and development studies such as SmartCare and Project INTEGRATE (www.projectintegrate.eu); plans for the creation of a range of education and teaching programmes – such as the Integrated Care University © provided during this congress; and finally the development of a knowledge-centre on integrated care as part of its commitment to the members of the European Innovation Partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA) action group on integrated care.

We have an ambitious vision for the future but one which I hope you might share and wish to get involved with. The work and mission of the Foundation is driven by its membership, and your views and participation are the key to making it a success. To find out more, please talk to our team who will be available throughout the conference to answer your questions, or visit our website at www.integratedcarefoundation.org

I would finally like to take this opportunity to personally thank the congress committee for their work in making this congress a reality. Specific thanks go to Lourdes Ferrer and Caroline Downey from our Foundation (IFIC) and to Clarine Sies from the Julius Academy, in leading the organisation of this event – it is greatly appreciated.

I wish all of you an enjoyable and successful conference.

We hope to see you again at the World Congress in Singapore, 7-9 November 2013, led by our friends at the Agency for Integrated Care, and again next year for our International Conference on Integrated Care, April 3 and 4 2014 in Brussels, Belgium.
