

# Word of Welcome

Dear Friends of Paediatric Urology, Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to invite you to the 26<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Society for Paediatric Urology. In continuing with the tradition, this will be a Joint Meeting with Society for Paediatric Urology, American Association of Pediatric Urologists, American Academy of Pediatrics/Section on Urology, Society for Fetal Urology and International Children's Continence Society. This promises to be one of the largest gatherings of paediatric urologists from across all continents providing an exciting experience for sharing knowledge and develop friendships.

The ESPU was born in 1989, the same year when democracy experienced renaissance at a large part of Central and Eastern Europe. After Budapest in 2002, Prague is the second city in this region to act as a host of the ESPU Congress.

Prague (in Czech Praha) is a more than one-thousand year old town with the oldest university in the Middle Europe founded by the Roman Emperor and Czech King Charles IV in 1348.

The University (called Charles University) consisted from four faculties: faculty of Law, Philosophy, Theology and Medicine. By founding the Prague New Town, the King Charles extended the historical Prague considerably (basically that remains up to present time) and connected historical towns by a stone-built bridge, called Charles Bridge. A town "of hundred spires" with centuries-old architecture situated along the banks of the wild Vltava river, scenic Petrín hill with a copy of Eiffel Tower, Prague Castle as the oldest permanent leader's residence of the country in Europe, and rich cultural history attracts visitors from all over the world. We believe that you as well are going to be absorbed in its beauty and spare some more time to visit other interesting places in the country.

The congress venue of Prague Congress Centre is situated in proximity of the historical centre with a magnificent view of the Prague panorama you are going to enjoy during coffee breaks and hope that will inspire you for some relaxation after traditionally exhausting scientific programme. This programme is primarily created by you, dear colleagues, and we are looking forward to your papers and original ideas that push forward our medical knowledge in order to help our small children and improve their quality of life.

Rest assured that the Board of the ESPU, the joint scientific committee and the congress organizing committee have prepared an attractive scientific and social programme for you.

We hope you will have a productive and enjoyable time in Prague, Czech Republic.

**Gianantonio Manzoni**

ESPU President

**Radim Kočvara**

Congress President