



28th International Pediatric Association Congress

The 2016 IPA Congress in Vancouver, August 17-22, 2016 will have the theme of **Community, Diversity and Vitality**. For the International Pediatric Association, our most clearly identified community is the children and youth for whom we care. However, we also recognize the importance of families (especially mothers) and other members of the “village” who contribute to the health and happiness of our future generations.

As Pediatricians, we recognize the diversity of people in these important processes. These include not only members of the health care team (Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, Dieticians, Pharmacists, Psychologists, etc.) but also those who contribute to education, water, sanitation, transportation, and an economy which allows families to appropriately care for their children and youth. Most (but not yet all) recognize the need to preserve religious, ethnic, gender and other diverse identities with mutual respect as we collectively assist all global children, youth and their families. We strive for individual health and happiness which will contribute to the health and happiness of the whole society.

Vitality has many forms. It may be the tiny preterm baby struggling for life outside the womb after having emerged before being fully prepared. It might be the teenager struggling with the complexities of social adjustment along with depression (which often does not emerge to be addressed as soon as it should). These and other topics will be included in the IPA 2016 Congress to assist learning of, and provide renewed energy for, pediatricians and other health care workers to help those who may have less opportunities than do we.

Vancouver is a great venue for leisure time activities. However, plan to come to the Congress in 2016 so that you can **participate, contribute** your abstracts (and the prior work necessary for them) and attend the sessions which will help you **learn** how to better facilitate the health of children and youth in the future. **Make new friends and colleagues** which will contribute to both your personal and professional growth.

I have recently met with the Pediatric Chairs of Canada and suggested they plan to provide financial support for attendance at the IPA 2016 Congress of one or more of their trainees, and that they **assist in providing financial support (directly or through the conference organizers) for attendance of another trainee from a country with limited resources**. They were receptive and I know many have made this commitment. I now **challenge Pediatric Department Heads** elsewhere to consider similar assistance for their trainees and those from less well resourced countries. These people are the future of Pediatrics who will learn and meet future colleagues as they prepare to make their contributions to our children and youth. Those who wish to communicate further on this are welcome to e-mail me at doug.mcmillan@dal.ca.

In closing this letter, I wish you all the best this new year and ask you to consider the applicability of advice given to me by my father over 50 years ago: **“Always forge ahead yourself and help others along with you”**.

Doug McMillan
IPA 2016 Congress President

August 17 - 22, 2016



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