

## FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to welcome you to the fifth edition of the International Congress of Breast Disease Centers which will take place in Antwerp. All the previous editions were in Paris. The origin of the congress goes to 2010 when Dr. Marc Espié of the Hôpital Saint Louis invited the founding members to come to Paris and discuss about a new kind of congress, dedicated to organization and quality aspects of Breast Centers.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Breast Disease Centres - Paris, February 2012 following statement was approved by the Chairmen of: ISS/SIS (International School of Senology/Senologic International Society), NAPBC (National Accreditation Program of Breast centers, USA), EUSOMA (European Society of Breast Specialists) and endorsed by the President of UICC (Union for International Cancer Control):

**“All women across the world should have access to fully equipped, quality assured, dedicated Breast Centers/Units, that provide competent and comprehensive care”.**

During the last editions we receive also the visit and support of Mr. Y. Leterme as Deputy Secretary General of the OECD and Prof. K. Maruszewski, director JRC (European Commission).

In 2013 the aims of the congress were further discussed and besides to work on a World platform for breast centers without frontiers much emphasis is now placed on multidisciplinary care, quality management and economic issues.

This year we are extremely grateful for the more than sixty world experts, coming from 15 countries and four continents who accepted to discuss different aspects of Breast Multidisciplinary Care. The president of EUSOMA, ECCO, ESTRO, Breast Centers Network, NAPBC USA and the General Director of SIS agreed to come and speak during the Antwerp edition. We also especially want to thank the city of Antwerp and all the members of the executive and local organizing committee for their commitment and support.

**Prof Jacques BONNETERRE**

*Medical Oncologist*

*Centre Oscar Lambret / Université de Lille*

*Chair of Scientific Committee*

**Prof Didier VERHOEVEN**

*Medical Oncologist*

*Breast Clinic Voorkeempen University of Antwerp*

*Chair of the Congress*