

Message from The President of CAPGAN



On behalf of the Council of the Commonwealth Association of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (CAPGAN) may I wish you a very warm welcome to London. This is a very special meeting for CAPGAN and we are especially delighted to be hosting it in London, marking as it does the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of the Association. The specialty of Paediatric gastroenterology has matured and changed much in those 25 years and CAPGAN has evolved over those years so it is fit for current purpose. Each successive congress has improved on the strength and value of the association's shared concern for the improvement of child health, in gastroenterology, nutrition and more recently hepatology.

In marking its 25th anniversary year it is appropriate for us all in CAPGAN to acknowledge the contributions our trainees and colleagues across the Commonwealth have made to paediatric gastroenterology, nutrition and hepatology and consequently the improved outcome for children and families across the Commonwealth and indeed the developing world.

The scientific committee headed by Dr Peter Sullivan, has planned an informative and stimulating programme reflecting current advances in paediatric gastroenterology, nutrition and hepatology and I have no doubt that the presentations and discussions that will result during the course of this Congress will be of immense value to colleagues and will benefit some of the most disadvantaged children in the commonwealth. One of the values, of course, of any such scientific Congress is the opportunity to renew old friendships, establish new professional links and share our mutual clinical and research interests and concerns. I am particularly grateful to Dr Barbara Golden and her team who have worked tirelessly to organize this meeting and make it a success. I would like to thank Dr Susan Hill and the team at Great Ormond Street Hospital for enabling us to host the meeting at the Institute of Child Health.

I am grateful to the Commonwealth Secretary General the Rt. Hon. Mr. Kamallesh Sharma and the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support and for allowing us to have the welcome reception at Marlborough House, the home of the Commonwealth and a gift from H.M. the Queen. I am also grateful to Baroness Warwick for hosting the Dinner for CAPGAN members at the Houses of Parliament.

I am looking forward to meeting you all and hope that you will enjoy the scientific programme, the social interaction and the opportunity to explore and experience London at its best. Welcome to CAPGAN 2011. Welcome to London.

Prof. Bhupinder Sandhu MBBS MD FRCP FRCPCH DSc (Hon)

E-mail: bsandhu@blackberry.orange.co.uk