



Italy, September 2022

*Dear IFHE Members, Friends and Colleagues,*

The time has finally come for the 27th IFHE International Federation of Healthcare Engineering Congress, hosted in Toronto by the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society, CHES.

It is my honour and pleasure, as outgoing President, to welcome all the participants to this Congress.

This is part of an extraordinary journey, which began in Rome, Italy, in May 1970, a journey which has carried us across continents and over time and led us to becoming the international reference point for the national associations of hospital engineering.

Our story is one of shared stories told across tables, over the phone and now online. I sincerely hope that these face-to-face meetings will prevail in the new normal in coexistence with the online mode, to continue our exchange of new ideas, guidelines, projects, steering documents and collaborations between associations and institutions, etc.

The International Congress is not just a scientific event, but an opportunity to consolidate the relationships of collaboration and friendship between colleagues and national associations.

The primary goal remains to share innovations within our discipline: hospital and healthcare facility design, construction, engineering, commissioning, maintenance, and estate management, etc.

For this reason it is much more than a simple scientific event.

Going forward, we can now relate and compare our experiences in a face-to-face setting, for the first time since the 2018 congress in Brisbane. During this challenging period, we have been resilient, resourceful and productive in spite of the limits that the pandemic has imposed on us.

The 50th anniversary of IFHE - originally to be held in Italy in 2020, had to be canceled as a result of the pandemic. So, our congress here in Toronto will be not only an opportunity to experience an impressively innovative event, but also an opportunity to see friends and colleagues, old and new, sharing stories that help our people and the environment where we live.

During this time, the IFHE has initiated a new communication strategy, designed to improve the member experience. A newsletter has been published periodically, and in this we want to present not only IFHE news, but also spread the news of our national associations, whether it be research, congresses or other events.

In addition to the IFHE International Building Award 2022, the Global Energy Award 2022 has been established and the winners will be honored here at the 27th IFHE Congress in Toronto.

I can't wait to meet you in person and to express my gratitude.

**Daniela Pedrini**  
**Outgoing IFHE President**