



Prof. Dr. Yücel KANPOLAT
President
Turkish Academy of Sciences

Mr. Chairman and distinguished Guests,

I would like to extend my thanks first of all to your administration and then to yourselves for your choice of this pleasant city by the Mediterranean for the venue of the 8th Congress of the INCTR, and take this opportunity to say welcome to you all.

It is a great advantage, but also a source of responsibility and honour for Turkey to be hosting here, in our country, such a distinguished group of scientists.

Cancer is a disease that still presents one of the most challenging problems in this millennium, when humanity has achieved great progress in science and technology. Cancer, in a way, has become our fate. However, fatalistic approaches cannot be a methodology that could be adopted by scientists. We, men and women of science, have the power to change the fate of humanity. It is our primary duty to be able to provide hope and possibility of an active life to our patients. In the light of this observation I hope that exchange of experiences and views to be realized during the course of this Congress, would become the source of new research topics and consequently new solutions.

The science and art of medicine and research, must aspire to achieve the end of providing a happier life to ailing people. If approaches that force patients to be dependent on medication and hospitals are becoming a source of income for companies that promote them, beyond a necessity for maintenance of the quality of life of the patients, then we, as people of science, must be able to reject them. The globally prevailing problem of the whole world is the great cost of new treatment methods for diseases. We must bear the acceptable consequences of such great cost. However greedy appetites that thrive on plight of ailing people, a problem suffered by all countries of the world, must at all costs be prevented from prevailing.

In consciousness of the fact that this Congress provides an important source of hope in the name of medical science, I wish such aspirations would be fulfilled by leading to creation and development of effective treatment methods for cancer.

I greet you in the name of values that you have created in the aid of humanity and thank you for having honoured our country by being present here at this Congress.

With heartfelt good wishes.

Prof. Dr. Yucel KANPOLAT
President