



Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the *Iberoamerican Association of Pediatric Surgery*, it gives me great pleasure to warmly invite you to join us in the 1st Iberoamerican Congress of Pediatric Surgery, which will be held, together with the *Spanish XLIII Congress* (www.secp.org), in the monumental city of Toledo, Spain on 26-29 May 2004. Pre-congress meetings will take place in Madrid, *Hospital Materno-Infantil "12 de Octubre"*, on 24-25 of May.

The *Iberoamerican Association of Pediatric Surgery* is the result of the union of the Panamerican Association with the Spanish and Portuguese Societies, since the meeting in Manzanillo (México) in 2001. I am very honoured of being th President of this new Association that will celebrate it´s first Congress in Toledo, May 2004.

Toledo is a world wide known city, 68 km. from Madrid. First conquered by the Romans (year 192 B.C.), afterwards by the Godos and then by the Arabs (year 711), it was reconquered by the christian troops of Alfonso VI of Castilla in the XIth century.

Madrid and Toledo are excellent places for the contact and communication of cultures, knowledge and friendship. The historical background of both cities is completed by turistical, gastronomical and cultural attractions, combined with the well-known spanish hospitality.

The scientific meeting will bring together several international experts in each of the specific areas that will be addressed in the Congress an pre-congress Symposium.

We also have a very attractive social programme for both congressists and guests, including cultural and sport activities.

We eagarly look forward to welcoming you all in Toledo and Madrid and wish you a most fruitful and enjoyable stay.

Prof. Francisco J. Berchi
AIACP President