

## **Opening Speech by Chairperson Malta Resuscitation Council, Dr Mary Rose Cassar**

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Fellow ERC members, ladies and gentlemen...

Bongu u Merhba. Good morning and welcome.

Welcome to our beautiful island of Malta and to this very historical medical place.

I would also like to welcome you on behalf of the Malta Resuscitation Council and may this meeting be enjoyable and constructive for all of you.

The delegates to this conference represent all the medical specialist groups, nurses, paramedics, researchers and students. It will therefore be inevitable that you bring with you the ideas, the views, the opinions, the passion and the commitment of resuscitation enthusiasts. But you also bring the concerns and challenges in this field too. This building itself should be conducive to such discussions since it is the former "Sacra Infermeria" of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. Work on this edifice started more than 400 years ago. When it was finished the Sacra Infermeria was considered to be one of the best hospitals in Europe and could accommodate 914 patients.

Over the next couple of days, it is our job to discuss what was launched in Porto last December.

I definitely do not want to bore you with statistics straight away since I am very sure that you will hear many of these very soon but I have to remind you why we are trying to invest so much of our time in resuscitation medicine. Overall we know what can increase the chances of survival when a heart stops beating suddenly and unpredictably, we know what skills should be used, we know what equipment will help us and we know that training is the key to success. But we also know that implementation of all of these is not easy. Some countries / institutions have made giant steps in this respect, others lack very much behind. However let's face it: we really do want the same, better chances of making it should we arrest anywhere in the world anytime! Many will think this is impossibly idealist but success is probably 1% talent and 99% endurance, as most of us here well know.

This ERC symposium aims to consolidate the discussions and research in resuscitation and heart disease that were presented in 2010. The programme is an exciting one and a number of speakers are authorities in their field. Our council is therefore indeed very proud to welcome you to what is promising to be another memorable, successful ERC event.

Thank you.

