



April 29, 2004

Dear Friends

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here in the closing ceremony of this Second International Health Colloquium of the IAA's Health Section, which in the past two days has met with great success in this beautiful city of Dresden.

I have very fond memories of the First Colloquium that was held in Cancun two years ago, among the activities of the 27<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Actuaries that Mexico had the honor of organizing in March 2002. The devoted and enthusiastic work of brilliant colleagues such as Howard Bolnick, Yair Babad, Bernie Rabinowitz, Ibrahim Muhanna, to mention but a few, allowed that first colloquium to be a great success. A success that laid the ground work which allowed us to formalize the creation of the IAA's Health Section and thus this second colloquium. There is no doubt in my mind that you, dear friends, must be proud of the endeavor as well as of the accomplishments attained.

Today, the IAAHS is a reality with the more than 300 members that currently participate in it.

The IAA Sections represent an essential element of the IAA since they constitute the proper forum in which to share the experiences in the corresponding area of expertise of the various countries and enhance the professional content of our association.

This second colloquium has, without a doubt, been a success. Two hundred (200) participants representing 28 countries; impressive indeed. The 42 papers presented here have been of the utmost quality and covered all the fundamental aspects of the current state of affairs regarding:

- ✓ Worldwide health care
- ✓ The problems that society has to face today as well as in the future
- ✓ Progress attained by medical care in all its different areas
- ✓ The incredible discoveries and progress made in the field of genetics
- ✓ The difficulties in endowing state systems with financial viability
- ✓ The increase of the population's life expectancy

All of these issues render the health topic an irrefutable priority for all countries around the world.

Another irrefutable fact is that we actuaries can and must contribute clear solution proposals of the society in which we live.

I am certain that the papers that were so brilliantly presented and discussed at great length during these past two days constitute a valuable contribution to this endeavor.

I wish to underscore the dedication and professionalism of the DAV (German association of actuaries) in organizing this event. Once again, our German colleagues, lead by Rainer Fürhaupter, have clearly confirmed their well-known efficiency as well as their warm hospitality.

Es ist für mich von grosser bedeutung hier in Deutschland zu sein. Einerseits, habe ich als kind und bis zum abitur die Deutsche schule in Mexico City besucht; andererseits, war es in Berlin, wo ich zum präsidenten der IAA gewählt wurde. In Deutschland fühle ich mich praktisch wie zu hause. Vielen dank!

Howard, dear friends, it has been wonderful to have had this opportunity to be here in Dresden and to have witnessed how an initiative, that just five years ago was merely an idea, became a creative and professional reality. Allow me to congratulate you on the existence of the IAAHS and on the fact that, today, it is a living and dynamic element of our profession.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I declare the activities of this successful Second International Colloquium of the IAAHS closed.

Congratulations!

Luis Huerta, President