

Pereira, S. M. (2023). Words of welcome. *Palliative Medicine*, 37(1S), 2-3.

Dear Colleagues, dear Friends; It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 18th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care in Rotterdam. This 2023 congress is the first face-to-face congress organized by the EAPC since 2019. Like other EAPC congresses, this congress is the result of two years of planning, organisation, meetings, reflection, and decision-making. Finally, here we are! It has been my honour to co-chair the Scientific Committee of this congress together with my colleague Agnes Csikos. For the first time, as far as I remember, the Scientific Committee, composed of a dedicated group of colleagues (thank you Alberto Alonso, Augusto Caraceni, Fin Craig, Jeroen Hasselaar, Martin Loucka, Wendy Oldenmenger, Christoph Ostgathe, Danai Papadatou, Nancy Preston, Audrey Roulston, and Rainer Simader), was co-chaired by two women who have the particularity of living in the South and Eastern parts of Europe.