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European Hospital Physicians' Declaration 2013

Healthcare in European countries is based on **principles of solidarity, accessibility and quality**, reflecting on fundamental values of European Citizens. These principles are positively changed by medicine development, as well as by progress made in organisations and healthcare management

Doctors of Europe, key actors of public health, believe in an **equitable Europe that is fostered and sustained by a healthy population**, for it to positively contribute to the well-being of the society.

Health is a value in itself and a pre-condition to achieve economic growth. In this context, the role of doctors is to provide the best quality care while remaining cost efficient. One way of respecting this duty and mission is to ensure adherence to proper clinical practice for each individual patient. However, patient outcome is also influenced by good management of both, diagnostic and therapeutic processes in hospital, interoperability of departments and in the wider context by the good governance throughout the hospital.

A hospital is the place where most challenging medical procedures are performed. It is also characterised by high demands on the organisation and management. Hospital physicians are essential to the good governance and performance of the hospital.

Based on the above, and with patients' safety, quality of care and equity in access to care in mind, **we, European Senior Hospital Physicians declare that:**

1. Evidence demonstrates that **Clinicians' involvement in Hospital Management improves Clinical results, Patients' satisfaction and financial outcomes.*** Doctors bring in knowledge, human capital, enhanced credibility, legitimacy & communication.
2. **It is necessary to combine Medical education, Managerial skills and Experience for a good Hospital Governance**, even if Hospitals throughout Europe are governed in a very variable manner.
3. **Doctors should be part of the Hospitals' Governance, at all levels**, including structure and function.
4. **Managerial education** should be embedded in the medical graduate and postgraduate curriculum and life-long learning.
5. Within the Goal of good Hospital Governance, **Doctors should collaborate** with the other Health care Providers and with Patients' Representatives.
6. The increasing Complexity of modern Medicine leads us to focus on **Humanity as well as on Technology.**
7. In order to guarantee Patients' Safety and Quality of Care, **Medical careers should be offered** in Hospitals throughout Europe and **Hospital Physicians should be included within a Structured Framework.**

8. Patients' Safety and clinical outcomes are best guaranteed by **appropriate working conditions** for Hospital Physicians.
9. **Professional Autonomy of Doctors** should be maintained, to ensure their responsibility towards the Patient.
10. The Patients as well as all other Stakeholders in European Healthcare will **benefit from having the best skilled and experienced Medical Leaders in Hospitals.**

The AEMH is a professional association of and for European hospital physicians, who have final responsibility for the patients, with the primary goal to improve all aspects of hospital life in Europe.