Well-managed hospitals improve health outcomes for everyone, everywhere.

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Opening address from the IHF President

As IHF President and Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives, I'm proud to partner with healthcare leaders from around the world who are redefining care during these times of great challenges. Thank you to healthcare leaders for perseverance, collaboration, and all they do to deliver safe and equitable care to patients and to advance the health of communities. Healthcare leaders truly are remarkable.

In many ways, 2022 was a year in which we strived to strengthen ourselves and our field – both now and for the future. As part of that, the IHF took significant steps to prioritize sustainability and climate resilience in healthcare, launching the Geneva Sustainability Centre and publishing our Statement on Sustainability with the support of several partners. This focus shone through during the 45th World Hospital Congress in Dubai, where our global community shared ways to deliver care in more resilient and sustainable ways at home.

A new strategic plan for 2023–2025 lays out our renewed vision, mission, goals, and priorities, which will inform our ongoing commitment to finding solutions to the many challenges that will affect our world tomorrow: workforce retention and recruitment, the wellbeing of our industry’s professionals, and ensuring equity and access to care, among others. We will also continue to lean in on driving equity in workforce leadership.

In 2022, our Women in Leadership Forum held a successful campaign for International Women’s Day, among other activities. A workshop focusing on strategies to take action to tackle inequity was highly successful, and we will look to build on that in the coming year.

When we come together in Lisbon, Portugal, for the 2023 World Hospital Congress, our conversation will focus on these areas and others to help us redefine care delivery for all we serve. As a leading global voice for hospitals and health systems, IHF is well-positioned to make a tremendous impact for patients and communities in the years to come.

With representation from over 130 different organizations in more than 60 countries, IHF membership connects you to the people leading more than 20,000 hospitals and healthcare organizations around the world. We are united by the simple truth that well-managed hospitals improve health outcomes for everyone, everywhere. I look forward to a year of collaboration and shared learning in which we work together to address the issues that affect us all.

Deborah Bowen, FACHE, CAE
President,
International Hospital Federation

President and Chief Executive Officer,
American College of Healthcare Executives
I'm delighted to share the IHF's highlights from 2022, including the growth of membership in new countries/territories; the launch of the Geneva Sustainability Centre and recruitment of a talented team, led by Executive Director Sonia Roschnik; and a calendar of well-attended and expert-led events, including the 45th World Hospital Congress, IHF Awards, webinars, and masterclasses.

We welcomed the insights and expertise of three new members on the IHF Governing Council: Dr Edmundo Lopez (Philippine Hospital Association), Ms Vanessa Ribeiro (Portuguese Association for Hospital Development), and Dr Zeenat Sulaiman Khan (Aga Khan Development Network). And we offered our sincere thanks to Prof. Margarida Eiras (Portuguese Association for Hospital Development), Dr Ekaterine Kavtaradze (Evex Hospitals, Georgia), and Dr Huberto Lapuz (Philippine Hospital Association) for their service as their mandates came to end.

It was a year of reflection to redefine and strengthen the IHF's identity, purpose, and goals. With a renewed vision, mission, strategic plan, logo, and website, the IHF has laid foundations to accelerate its growth and achievements in 2023 and beyond.

In 2023, I look forward to leading the IHF Secretariat team to deliver many ambitious projects for the benefit of our members.

- We will begin implementing projects across each of our core programmes to deliver the goals in our Strategic Plan 2023–2025.
- The Geneva Sustainability Centre will launch resources, tools, and learning opportunities to support hospitals to become climate resilient.
- We will further build our brand and reach: growing our membership and developing stronger partnerships on the global stage.
- We will expand our training and development offerings, recruiting faculty members across the IHF and Geneva Sustainability Centre.
- We will host an impactful 46th World Hospital Congress in Lisbon, in collaboration with the consortium of Portuguese members.

We will support our global community to successfully navigate the future, from workforce wellbeing to innovation in practice, and from digital solutions to building climate resilience.

I am proud to lead the IHF and to embark on 2023 with renewed commitment to our vision of a world of healthy communities, served by well-managed hospitals and healthcare services, where individuals can reach their highest potential for health.

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Ronald Lavater, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer,
International Hospital Federation
The vision of the International Hospital Federation is a world of healthy communities served by well-managed hospitals and health services where all individuals reach their highest health potential. To meet this vision, we centre our work on knowledge exchange, the promotion of good practices, and international collaboration amongst different health system actors. Excellence in hospital leadership and management is the thread connecting everything that we do.

Some of the IHF’s most important achievements in 2022 include:

1. Expanding our membership, including new countries and territories.
   In 2022, we welcomed 32 new organizations into our community of members, increased our exchanges in the African region, and strengthened the IHF network across the world. Several membership enquiries are ongoing, illustrating the growing profile of the IHF and demonstrating the value of its programmes and activities. The expansion of members from low-income countries was, in part, made possible thanks to grants from the Dr Kwang Tae Kim Trust Fund.

2. Launching the Geneva Sustainability Centre.
   Established in 2022, the Geneva Sustainability Centre was launched to support IHF members to address the sustainability challenges affecting hospitals and healthcare services today and tomorrow. Through learning programmes, events and resources, the Centre promotes climate resilience by equipping current and future hospital leaders with the information, tools, and skills to drive this sustainable transformation at leadership, management, and institutional levels.

3. Rebranding the IHF and relaunching its website.
   Working with a creative agency, the IHF logo and website were redesigned to deliver a stronger profile and brand recognition to take the organization towards its 100th anniversary (in 2029). The project aligned the new icons and website with the refreshed vision, mission and strategy. As well as offering a modern, professional online home, the new website also provides increased opportunities for IHF members to present their organizations, events, and news across the whole network.
Highlights of 2022

IHF Statement on Sustainability

In November 2022, the IHF’s General Assembly voted to approve the statement “Addressing climate change as an integral part of healthcare delivery.” This statement is a call to action to address climate change as an integral part of healthcare delivery.

It received endorsement from several international organizations in the healthcare sector, including ISQua, International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations, International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services, World Patients Alliance, and World Federation of Public Health Associations. Further endorsements are expected from organizations worldwide.
In addition, 64 outstanding projects and programmes were recognized during the IHF Awards 2022 Ceremony. There were 28 organizations and industry providers that partnered, sponsored, and supported the event. Many of them also showcased their cutting-edge products and services in the exhibition area.

| Watch the highlights of the 45th World Hospital Congress |

Attendees also enjoyed opportunities to interact face-to-face with peers during the networking breaks and social events such as the Welcome Reception, International Geneva Reception, Speed Networking, and the IHF Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner.

Several attendees joined the hospital visits that took place on 8 and 11 November to several leading hospitals and institutions in Dubai, such as Al Jalila Foundation, American Hospital, Dubai Hospital, Latifa Women and Children Hospital, Mediclinic Parkview Hospital, and Rashid Hospital. Trips to Abu Dhabi hospitals included Cleveland Clinic and Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) in partnership with Mayo Clinic.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, the 45th IHF World Hospital Congress was held from 9 to 11 November in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

It was attended by more than 1,200 delegates composed of hospital and healthcare leaders, decision-makers, and professionals from 67 countries and territories. The overarching theme was “Global Learnings, Local Actions: Sustainable Healthcare”. A wide range of topics were covered under three sub-themes: Improvements in Delivery of Care, the People Agenda, and Green Hospitals. The event was co-organized with Dubai Health Authority, a full member of the IHF.

The event was a chance for IHF members and the wider international healthcare community to come together once again to tackle some of the most relevant issues, share good practices and key learnings, and discuss ways to move forward. In addition, it was a fantastic opportunity to meet, network, build and strengthen professional relationships and explore collaborations.

His Excellency Awadh Seghayer Al Ketbi, Director General of Dubai Health Authority, addressed the attendees during the Opening Ceremony.

Over 200 speakers shared their insights, expertise, and experiences across 34 scientific sessions. There were more than 140 posters that showcased good practices and innovations from around the world.
The event closed with a video address from Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, followed by Dr Rana A. Hajjeh, Director for Programme Management (WHO EMRO). Closing speeches were delivered by IHF President Deborah J. Bowen and IHF President-Designate Dr Muna Tahlak of Dubai Health Authority.

Before the congress, some of the speakers shared their insights in a special series of podcasts. Topics covered include formulation of the congress programme by the Scientific Committee, what goes into organizing a global event, healthcare workforce challenges, and achieving net zero in healthcare. Listen to the podcasts [here](#).

The congress put a spotlight on some of the key issues and latest global developments related to healthcare challenges faced by hospitals worldwide; improved practices, innovations, smart solutions, and digital technology in the health sector; the role of leadership in building and shaping successful health institutions; and methods providing sustainable health services to society – topics that were recognized by delegates as enjoyable, informative, and valuable to their organizations.
The International Hospital Federation announced a total of 64 IHF Awards winners on 10 November as part of a special awarding ceremony at the 45th World Hospital Congress. For the very first time, the IHF Awards Ceremony was held during a Gala Dinner attended by 350 hospital and healthcare leaders from around the globe.

The Awards Committee, composed of 40 global health leaders and chaired by Dr Lawrence Lai, IHF Honorary Member, meticulously scored over 400 entries submitted from 35 countries and territories to determine the winners.

High-resolution photos from the ceremony can be viewed and downloaded here.

The Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners in each of the seven categories, as well as honourable mentions, were presented with plaques and certificates at the Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner. On 11 November, the Gold winners provided an in-depth presentation of their winning programmes and projects in a special parallel session at congress.
The IHF established the Geneva Sustainability Centre in April 2022, with a mission to guide and equip current and future hospital leaders with the information, tools, and skills to drive a sustainable transformation at leadership, management, and institutional levels.

The Centre’s team, led by Executive Director Sonia Roschnik, will support members of the IHF in addressing climate challenges and will work on strategic partnerships to amplify their voices on the global stage.

The 45th IHF World Hospital Congress, where the Centre gained visibility and received positive feedback, demonstrated that healthcare leaders are ready to learn and to act for more sustainability in healthcare. On that occasion, the IHF took a step further towards the transformation of the healthcare sector when the IHF General Assembly approved a statement calling for hospitals and health systems to recognize their environmental impact and address climate change as an integral part of healthcare delivery.

The Geneva Sustainability Centre’s team is ready to help and will fully start rolling out its programmes in 2023. Among others, the Centre will deliver:

- sustainability masterclasses for hospital executives to enhance awareness and competencies;
- the online GSC Sustainability Accelerator Tool which will allow organizations to diagnose and monitor their “maturity level” on their sustainability journey and benchmark their performance;
- guiding resources to showcase good practices across the IHF membership and to support hospitals in their efforts towards low carbon and resilient care.
Launched in 2019, the IHF’s Young Executive Leaders (YEL) programme builds leadership competencies and professional relationships amongst young hospital executives across the globe, creating a voice for the next generation of international healthcare leaders. Since 2021, the IHF partners with WittKieffer, a leading global executive search and advisory firm, which helps grow the YEL programme through content repository, structure, and reach.

In 2022, the IHF received a record-high number of 185 applications from 31 different countries for the programme, with 42 participants from 26 countries being accepted.

Between April and November 2022, participants attended a series of eight masterclasses featuring 22 high-level speakers and subject-matter experts who shared their insights on key healthcare leadership areas and topics.

Participants also worked in small groups to complete topical assignments, resulting in the publication of eight deliverables (articles, podcast episode and video) and the opportunity for the selected young executives to share their insights across our global community.

The capstone experience was attending the 45th World Hospital Congress in Dubai. The group graduated to the YEL Alumni network, participated in a dedicated day-long workshop. Selected representatives presented their work on the evolution and future of healthcare during a parallel session.

“The self-discovery afforded me useful insights on how I can better my performance as a young executive leader in the hospital and how, in my own way, I can be an agent and catalyst of change in my organization.”

Rizza Rivera, Davao Oriental Provincial Medical Center, Philippines, YEL 2022 participant
Special Interest Groups

The IHF coordinates two Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for its members, focused on telehealth and harnessing big data. In providing a platform for IHF members to come together, these SIGs offer a way of facilitating knowledge exchange and showcasing innovation and good practices on an international level.

In partnership with its sponsor, Vizient Inc, the IHF Harnessing Big Data SIG hosted several activities on the imperatives and advantages of harnessing big data and analytics to improve performance in healthcare systems. These activities included:

- A special lunch and learn session, in August 2022, focused on how CEOs and other C-suite executives can prepare effective strategic communications prior to, during, and after a cyberattack – to help minimize the negative impact on organizational reputation.

- A session at the 45th World Hospital Congress on how hospitals and healthcare systems can use big data to improve health inequalities. This session explored how different healthcare actors have successfully leveraged big data to develop actionable strategies and implement interventions which effectively tackle health inequalities.

In 2022, the IHF’s Telehealth Special Interest Group focused its activities on how to design and implement sustainable and successful telehealth programmes.

The first of these activities in March was a special webinar – “The Power of Telehealth: How can it improve access to care?” – hosted by the IHF in collaboration with the World Telehealth Initiative and the African Healthcare Federation. Presenters from Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Ethiopia shared learnings and knowledge about how telehealth can be harnessed to address disparities of access to care and medical expertise.

Starting in July and concluding in December, in partnership with its sponsor, Teladoc Health, the IHF Telehealth SIG hosted a ‘lunch and learn’ series focused on how to establish a sustainable telehealth programme focused within an acute care setting. Led by senior representatives from Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Germany) and Mayo Clinic (USA), attendees were able to learn from these organizations’ experiences of establishing successful telehealth programmes.

At the 45th World Hospital Congress, the SIG coordinated a session on the potential of hybrid critical care delivery and how to implement this in high-acuity care settings. Healthcare leaders from Apollo Hospitals (India) and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Germany) shared their learnings and strategies on how hospitals can appropriately harness hybrid care approaches of hub and remote service offerings to reduce waste, optimize resources, and maximize clinical capacity.
The IHF’s Women in Leadership Forum is a collaborative community for senior female executives from the IHF’s membership, which seeks to advance gender equity in the healthcare industry while amplifying the impact of women leaders globally. In 2022, the Forum held three key activities to support its ambitions.

- On International Women’s Day 2022, the Forum, via a global video campaign, celebrated the IHF members around the world who are breaking down barriers to create healthcare workplaces free of bias and discrimination.

- In September 2022, the Forum held a virtual event, in collaboration with its sponsor, Alumni Global, on “Turning challenges into leadership opportunities”.

- At the 45th World Hospital Congress, in partnership with Alumni Global, an executive search and recruitment specialist, two female executives from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi led a special workshop for the Women in Leadership Forum bringing together senior women leaders from across the IHF’s international community. This workshop offered participants a unique opportunity to directly inform the work of the IHF on how it – as a global organization – can drive forward the agenda of gender equity in the healthcare sector.

In 2023, the Forum will build on the outputs of the World Hospital Congress workshop in partnership with Alumni Global.
The Association Leaders Circle (ALC) was launched by the IHF in 2021 with the objective of creating a unique space for association leaders to exchange ideas and experiences on common challenges and share concrete solutions. This exclusive group is open only to members of the IHF who represent hospital and healthcare associations. It gathers twice a year: once in a virtual meeting mid-year and the second in-person during the World Hospital Congress.

In 2022 the focus of the ALC meetings was on the healthcare workforce – a critical topic selected by members of the Circle. Chaired by Richard J. Pollack, President and CEO of the American Hospital Association (AHA), the ALC held two meetings in 2022:

- The virtual event on “Clinical workforce retention” was held in May and representatives of members associations had an opportunity to learn about the AHA’s overarching strategy on clinical staff retention. Ronald Werft, President and CEO at Cottage Health presented the AHA Task Force on Workforce. Attendees shared similar concerns and challenges and overall, the event clearly demonstrated that healthcare workforce is a top priority at global level.

- The in-person breakfast meeting on “Violence in healthcare: resilient and sustainable workforce” was held during the 45th World Hospital Congress. Violence against healthcare workers is a global concern and the COVID-19 pandemic appeared to worsen the situation. The AHA provided an overview of national and local policy initiatives in the USA aimed at curbing violence against healthcare workers, and shared an overview of the AHA’s national Hospitals Against Violence initiative. The gathered global leaders had the opportunity to exchange on what hospital associations can do to influence governments and policymakers, as well as share example of initiatives aiming to provide recommendation to the hospitals they represent.
In February 2022, the IHF signed a three-year agreement with the Healthcare Leadership Academy (HLA), an initiative established by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties (a premier member of the IHF). The collaboration focuses on developing healthcare leaders at all levels to support the transformation of the Saudi healthcare system.

The IHF has since participated in the curriculum development and orientation in collaboration with HLA and the London School of Economics. IHF Faculty members have delivered five healthcare leadership development courses designed to boost the skills of more than 125 students from different locations in Saudi Arabia, who provided positive feedback on the experience.

As a next step to continuously improve the programme, the HLA and IHF Faculty teams will thoroughly review the curriculum and develop exam questions.

In addition, several Saudi nationals will be trained (via training for trainers) to join the IHF Faculty and combine their local knowledge with the international expertise of the IHF. More courses will be scheduled between April and December 2023.

In the future, IHF Faculty members can be called on to act as ambassadors for the IHF at conferences or congresses where the IHF is invited to participate. Other leadership development activities will focus on areas such as:

- coordinating with the Geneva Sustainability Centre to embed sustainability in the healthcare leadership curriculum and supporting the development of the Centre’s teaching offerings;
- further evolving the international leadership competencies framework;
- reviewing opportunities with members to expand or continue with professional development opportunities that bring value to the IHF, and its members.
Our members

The IHF is a membership association representing the interests of hospitals and healthcare organizations across the world. Our members' interests are at the heart of everything we do.

In 2022, we had membership representation from over 130 different organizations in 60 countries and we were connected to over 25,000 hospitals and healthcare organizations worldwide.
In 2022, the IHF welcomed 32 new hospitals and healthcare-adjacent organizations into its global community. Through these members, we increased the visibility of the organization globally. We expanded our geographical coverage across all regions, including seven new countries: Rwanda, Zambia, Israel, Nigeria, Palestine, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe.

Through its activities, the IHF also significantly increased its membership in different regions, for example in the Eastern Mediterranean due to outreach connected to the 45th World Hospital Congress in Dubai.

We also increased the diversity of the mandates and professional scope of these new members, highlighting the IHF’s inclusivity and capacity to reach out to all types of healthcare stakeholders.

The IHF was able to offer membership to four organizations in 2022 through grants from the Dr Kim Trust Fund: Amiri Medical Centre, Afghanistan; Indian Hospital Association Vadodara, India; Kindoya Hospital, Sierra Leone; and Zambia Association of Private Hospitals, Zambia.
New IHF members in 2022

- **Full members (3 new members)**
  1. Eastern Mediterranean / Egypt, General Authority of Healthcare
  2. Africa / Rwanda Private Medical Facilities Association – RPMFA
  3. Africa / Zambia Association of Private Hospitals – ZAPH

- **Premier Associate members (14 new members)**
  1. Europe / Belgium, Pan-European Healthcare Procurement Alliance
  2. Eastern Mediterranean / Israel, Sheba Medical Center
  3. Europe / Portuguese Association of Hospital Managers – APAH
  4. Europe / Portuguese Association of Private Hospitals – APHP
  5. Eastern Mediterranean / Qatar, Elegancia Healthcare
  6. Eastern Mediterranean / Saudi Arabia, Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Services Group Company
  7. Eastern Mediterranean / Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties
  8. Eastern Mediterranean / UAE, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi – CCAD
  9. Eastern Mediterranean / UAE, Mediclinic Middle East
  10. Eastern Mediterranean / UAE, NMC Healthcare
  11. Eastern Mediterranean / UAE, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City – SSMC / Mayo Clinic
  12. Americas / USA, Boston Children’s Hospital
  13. Americas / USA, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
  14. Africa and Europe regions / Various countries, Aga Khan Health Services and University Hospitals

- **Group Associate members (2 new members)**
  1. Africa / Kenya, Avenue Healthcare
  2. Africa / Nigeria, Iwosan Investment Limited

- **Standalone Associate members (13 new members)**
  1. South-east Asia / Indian Hospital Association, Vadodara
  2. South-east Asia / Indonesia, Bhina Bhakti Husada Hospital
  3. Southeast Asia / Indonesia, Paramarta Cardiovascular Hospital
  4. Africa / Nigeria, R-Jolad Hospital
  5. Eastern Mediterranean / Palestine, Augusta Victoria Hospital – AVH
  6. Western Pacific / Philippines, Davao Regional Medical Center
  7. Europe / Portugal, Hospital de Cascais Dr Jose de Almeida
  8. Africa / Sierra Leone, Kindoya Hospital
  9. Western Pacific / Singapore, Tan Tock Seng Hospital – TTSH
  10. Eastern Mediterranean / UAE, Czech Rehabilitation Hospital
  11. Eastern Mediterranean / UAE, Moorfields Eye Hospital Dubai
  12. Americas / USA, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center
  13. Africa / Zimbabwe, Baines Intercare Medical Centre
Our partnerships

IHFW activity: ‘We are the global voice of hospitals’

The IHF forges partnerships with outstanding local, regional, and international stakeholders to respond to the growing complexity of the healthcare sector and advocate for the issues that are most important to our members.

To strengthen the global voice of hospitals, the IHF advocacy plan was developed in 2022 to provide a well-defined advocacy framework for the organization. The driver of this advocacy work is to bridge the voice of our constituency – hospitals and healthcare organizations – at the international level on issues which impact all, or at least most, of our members. Our overall aim is to ensure that the IHF disseminates clear messages and position statements on topics that are of universal interest to our members.

Other advocacy activities within the framework include releasing individual or joint statements, attending meetings and working groups, developing publications, webpages, and social media campaigns.
The IHF stands against violence in healthcare

In March 2022, the IHF took a firm position against violence in healthcare by stating publicly that the reported escalation of violence in Ukraine is a major concern for us all.

“Attacks on hospitals, healthcare workers, and ambulances are not acceptable. No matter the context. No matter the reasons. It is a violation of International Humanitarian Law, and we firmly stand against it”.

Later in July, in collaboration with the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Medical Association (WMA), a joint report was published: “Violence against healthcare: current practices to prevent, reduce or mitigate violence against healthcare”.

This report demonstrates that health personnel and their patients, as well as healthcare facilities and ambulances, are subject to persistent acts of violence in all regions of the world.

It reveals an increase in reported incidents since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Close to 60% of the respondents perceived that there has been an increase in reported cases of violence against healthcare since the start of the pandemic. The survey also identified successful approaches taken by healthcare providers to lower incidences of violence against healthcare.

To conclude our work on violence in healthcare, in December 2022, the IHF chaired a webinar on protecting healthcare from violence - a global dialogue for peer exchange of good practice. Esteemed speakers from the American Hospital Association, International Committee of the Red Cross, Taiwan Nurses Association and the World Medical Association Junior Doctors Network shared their experience in tackling violence and implementing practical solutions. With more than 400 registered participants, this webinar was an opportunity to reiterate that preventing, responding to, and reporting violence in healthcare is everybody’s responsibility and that it is very important to move from a silo approach and work together.
Our partnerships

International Geneva is the label used by the city to describe the unique ecosystem of Geneva (Switzerland): where a variety of global actors can connect and exchange with peers from any country and of any expertise.

- The World Hospital Congress is an opportunity for us to showcase the uniqueness of “International Geneva” where the IHF is headquartered. Since 2021, we organize a dedicated special event called “International Geneva” where a limited number of top representatives of global NGOs, world-leading hospitals, healthcare organizations and key partners enjoy the privilege of a private and relaxed environment to engage in conversation and meaningful exchange with peers from all around the world.

In 2022, we had the honour to be graced with the presence of H.E. Massimo Baggi, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Dr Muna Abdul Razzaq Tahlak, Chief Executive Officer, Latifa Hospital and IHF President Designate, and Clare Dalton, Head of Mission, United Arab Emirates, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

- Created in 2006, the Geneva Health Forum is a biennial global health conference. In May this year, the IHF team participated in panels discussing climate change and healthcare. Sonia Roschnik shared insights into mitigating the environmental impact of healthcare, and Sara Perazzi discussed examples of actions the healthcare workforce can take.

| Geneva is the home to a unique ecosystem of international organizations |
IHF ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

Our partnerships

A study (that was started in 2021) on the roles of national hospital associations before and during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published. Co-authored by Bruno Meessen (WHO) and Sara Perazzi (IHF), 18 national hospital associations participated in the research and the outcomes are reported in the paper “The role of national hospital associations in health system governance before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from an exploratory online survey” available in Health Policy OPEN, Volume 3, 2022.

Together with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), the “Alliance for a pandemic treaty” was established. As a coalition to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body it works to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, reparedness and response at the various consultations. During the year the coalition actively participated in the consultations and submitted a pre-recorded statement at the WHA75 together with nine other non-state actors.

Hospitals are key actors in the health system are paramount in achieving universal health coverage. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed their weakness and increased longstanding gaps. In April the WHO EURO office invited the IHF CEO, together with other global and regional experts, to a meeting on “Rethinking the future of hospitals in the WHO European Region”.

In 2022, the theme of World Patients Safety Day was “medication safety”. The IHF joined efforts with GS1, ISQua, EHMA, and EAHP for a coordinated social media campaign focused on the “5 Rights of Medication Administration”, which culminated in the release of a joint statement from the 5 organizations.

In 2023, partnership efforts will focus on strengthening the relationship with the six WHO regional offices and the IHF will actively participate in the 5th Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety and in the 5th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health.

Collaborating with the World Health Organization

At its 150th session in January 2022, the Executive Board of the World Health Organization approved the maintenance of official relations with the International Hospital Federation for a further three years. This year the IHF had the opportunity to work on several joint activities with the WHO:

- A study (that was started in 2021) on the roles of national hospital associations before and during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published. Co-authored by Bruno Meessen (WHO) and Sara Perazzi (IHF), 18 national hospital associations participated in the research and the outcomes are reported in the paper “The role of national hospital associations in health system governance before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from an exploratory online survey” available in Health Policy OPEN, Volume 3, 2022.

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Global impact and engagement

The IHF’s global network is connected through a variety of channels. Each month, subscribers receive a round-up of the latest news, as well as upcoming activities and special offerings from the secretariat, members, and the wider IHF network.

We leverage partnerships with media and PR firms to distribute our most important announcements and statements.

Since 2017, social media has been a supportive platform providing a venue to engage with both members and non-members of the community, and promote all activities in the IHF.

In 2022, a milestone for the IHF’s branding was also reached with the launch of the brand new IHF website.
Media coverage

Working with our media partners, the IHF published 12 press releases throughout 2022. With a combined global audience reach of over 700,000 readers and subscribers, these announcements about our events and activities featured in articles on the websites, newsletters, and social media channels of our media partners.

Newsletter

The IHF newsletter shares our latest news and events each month, as well as stories from across our membership and partner network. The revised newsletter’s performance shows a positive trend of growing engagement compared to 2021.

Our distribution list has grown to 10.2k recipients, and the average open rate was 22.6% compared to 17.3% in 2021.

The IHF’s total audience reach is further amplified by the shares from our members, partners, and networks, such as the articles featured in the newsletters of partner NGOs in Geneva.
Social media

In 2022, we saw steady increases in the number of followers for each of the IHF’s key social media channels – LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

Across around 470 posts, #IHFDubai, #IHFAwards2022, and #IHFYEL2022 were particular highlights for social media throughout the year, and especially during the World Hospital Congress in November. The introduction of Sonia Roschnik as Executive Director of the Geneva Sustainability Centre also significantly increased engagements and new followers, especially on LinkedIn.

Throughout the years, LinkedIn remains to be the most engaged social media platform for the IHF, having invited 117,000 connections to visit the IHF’s LinkedIn page, in the year 2022.

The launch of social media accounts for the Geneva Sustainability Centre in October also boosted the online presence of the IHF, while building its own distinct brand and profile.

Websites

In December, the new IHF website was launched, providing a fresh and engaging design, faster user experience, and greater focus on our members.

The IHF’s websites continued to attract increasing numbers of visitors around the world in 2022 with an average of 5,856 unique visitors per month on the IHF’s website and 13,304 average monthly page views. The World Hospital Congress website also recorded 4,834 unique visitors per month and 14,036 average monthly page views.
Events and speaking engagements

Ronald Lavater (CEO of the IHF), Sonia Roschnik (Executive Director of the Geneva Sustainability Centre), the Secretariat team, and spokespeople from our members hosted and participated in numerous global events throughout 2022. These events and outreach activities provided an opportunity to highlight the work of the IHF and its members, as well as to advocate for strong leadership and sustainability in hospitals.

There was representation of the IHF and Geneva Sustainability Centre in over 20 events, in collaboration with members or international partner organizations, as well as several research projects, media profiles and interviews.

- Webinar “The Power of Telehealth: How can it improve access to care?” with Africa Health Federation and World Telehealth Initiative (16 March)
- Webinar “IHF Session on Global Health System Recovery” at ACHE Virtual Leadership Symposium (11 to 12 April)
- Waterfalls Global Award, UAE (5 July)
- Lunch and learn series “Designing and Implementing Sustainable Acute Care Telehealth Programmes” with Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Mayo Clinic (7 July, 14 September, 7 December)
- Lunch and learn “Cybersecurity in healthcare: How can you protect your organizational reputation?” with Vizient Inc. (11 August)
- Webinar “Turning Challenges into Leadership Opportunities” with Alumni Global (1 September)
- G20 Health and Development Partnership “H20 Annual Summit” (1 to 2 September)
- 1st Pan-European Hospital and Healthcare Procurement Summit 2022 (20 to 21 September)
- Asia-Pacific health leadership congress (21 September)
- WHO expert meeting: Rethinking the future of hospitals in the European Region (21 to 22 April)
- Geneva Health Forum (3 to 5 May)
- Africa Health ExCon (5 to 7 June)
- HIMSS European Health Conference & Exhibition (14 to 16 June)
- NHS ConfedExpo 2022 (15 to 16 June)
- ACHE Virtual Leadership Symposium (10 to 11 October)
- 45th World Hospital Congress (9 to 11 November)
- 37th Global GS1 Healthcare Conference (15 to 17 November)
- APDH International Hospital Conference (23 to 25 November)
- Korea Healthcare Congress (29 to 30 November)
- Friends of Europe Health Innovation Summit (29 November)
- Protecting Health Care from Violence, a Global Dialogue for Peer Exchange of Good Practice (1 December)
- Sustainable healthcare discussion with Dr Tedros at WHO Headquarters (2 December)
IHF Leadership

Governing Council and Executive Committee

The Governing Council is responsible with the overall governing of the affairs of the IHF, within the boundaries of the authority of the General Assembly. It is composed of 25 seats which are distributed between IHF Full Members (21 seats) and IHF Associate Members (3 seats), with one additional seat for the IHF’s host in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Executive Committee oversees the day-to-day operations of the IHF, conducting the affairs in between meetings of the Governing Council. The Executive Committee comprises 4 members of the Governing Council. In 2022, it was composed of President (Ms Deborah J. Bowen), President Designate (Dr Muna A. Tahlak), Treasurer (Dr Henry Gallardo) and a fourth Governing Council member (Prof. Margarida Eiras).
Governing Council members

The IHF Governing Council Members in 2022 (including those whose mandate ended at the World Hospital Congress 2022) are listed alphabetically by organization.
The IHF is proud to be headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and participate in a unique and diverse ecosystem of international organizations, permanent missions, NGOs, and other health actors known as ‘International Geneva’.

The accessibility of so many world-leading NGOs and institutions makes for a dynamic and stimulating environment. Having many of the IHF’s healthcare partners headquartered in Geneva, including the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross, also has the benefit of facilitating dialogue and collaboration, ensuring that the voice of hospitals is represented and that healthcare is considered holistically.
Team members

- **Aditi Jayaram**: Volunteer (from June)

- **Alexandra Gray**: Programme Lead

- **Alexandrina Iremciuc**: Communications Manager of the Geneva Sustainability Centre (June to October)

- **Ana Rubio**: Membership and Administrative Officer (from February)

- **Anais Laigle**: Programme Manager (from April)

- **Andrew Garman**: Senior Leadership Development Advisor

- **Aoife Kirk**: Project Officer for Learning Programmes at the Geneva Sustainability Centre (from December)

- **Carmen Menéndez**: Project Officer at the Geneva Sustainability Centre (from June)

- **Caroline Knox**: Volunteer (July to August)

- **Eleonor Angeles**: Awards and Marketing Manager

- **Karen Cabuyao**: Events Specialist

- **Katherine Bennett**: Communications and Engagement Manager

- **Linda Clark**: Director of Professional Development

- **Mylene Dayola**: Communications Officer

- **Patricia Mencias**: Events Consultant

- **Rachel Fabon**: Events Manager (from February)

- **Ronald Lavater**: Chief Executive Officer

- **Sara Perazzi**: Senior Partnership and Programme Manager

- **Sonia Roschnik**: Executive Director of the Geneva Sustainability Centre

- **Sylvia Basterrechea**: Programme Lead
The International Hospital Federation (IHF) is a global not-for-profit, non-governmental, membership organization.

Established in 1929 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the IHF is the global voice of hospitals and health systems. Our vision is a world of healthy communities served by well-managed hospitals and healthcare services, where individuals can reach their highest potential for health.

Our members are hospitals and healthcare organizations worldwide, who have direct involvement in the provision of care. We provide a platform for knowledge exchange and networking with different actors in the health sector. Motivated by a shared commitment to well-managed hospitals, our members act together to improve the standard, quality, and level of healthcare service delivery.

In 2022, the IHF established the Geneva Sustainability Centre to support hospitals and healthcare services in addressing the sustainability challenges of today and tomorrow. The Geneva Sustainability Centre equips current and future hospital leaders with the information, tools, and skills to drive this sustainable transformation at leadership, management, and institutional levels.