Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are honoured to host you in Cracow where we will spend four spring days from the 9th to the 12th of April 2014 participating in the 12th Congress of Polish Odontologists. The meetings are held every five years, therefore, we feel even more obliged to perfectly organize this very important forum for Polish dentistry.

The challenges we face are not less demanding than in the past. Continuing education and constant adjustment to the changing patients’ needs has become the necessity. Our system of specialist training requires improvement and should stay in harmony with education systems in the European Union. The integration will encourage cooperation and healthy competition. Our meeting will provide a great opportunity not only to present and summarize the scientific developments, personal achievements, and didactic work of the last five years but also to take a closer look at the horizon we want to reach and the aim we plan to achieve.

We are witnessing an increasing acceleration of the modern world, Europe, and Poland in development of technology, civilization, international integration and international competition. The participants in the Congress will have a possibility to learn about the most up-to-date trends in dentistry which has been undergoing a dynamic development in the recent years. “We all stand united. Dentistry facing challenges of the present-day medicine” is the motto that will be a guiding principle during the 12th Congress of Polish Dental Societies.

The Congress of Polish Dental Societies will take place in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University. Apart from presentation of the latest accomplishments, the Congress aims at promoting scientific research, propagating prevention and ensuring high-quality of dental treatment. This is not possible to achieve without combining knowledge, innovative technologies, state of the art equipment, professional training and management methods. The high rank of the Congress will be endorsed by the presence of respected authorities on dentistry and medici ne from Poland and other countries who will create a unique forum for presenting the achievements of the past five years. We believe that the modern headquarters of old University will be the most suitable place for exchanging theoretical and clinical experience.

For the first time, Cracow, al though ancient, will be the host city of the Congress of Polish Odontologists. As announced before by the 12th Congress of Polish Odontologists, the Senate of the Republic of Poland had passed a resolution along declaring 2014 to be the year of the Great Jubilee of the Jagiellonian University. Therefore, the 12th Congress of Polish Odonto logists has become part of the Jubilee events calendar and will remain listed in the annals of the University Chronicle written by centuries. Interestingly, 2014 is also the year of Oskar Kolberg, an outstanding ethnographer. The legacy of Oskar Kolberg still constitutes essential material basis for the projects of culture creators and researchers. In his works, Oskar Kolberg described Saint Apollonia, the patroness of dentistry.

Cracow, the cultural capital of Poland, with the most beautiful Main Square in Europe, offers the array of cultural attractions. Therefore, for the three days of your stay, it was not easy to choose the proposals that would be so particular, unique, related to Cracow only. The Słowiński Theatre enchants with its architectural beauty and hence, it is a must-visit. Many particular events took place behind thematical curtain of Henryk Sienkiewicz. This stage hosted most distinguished artists and the greatest plays. “The Wedding” by Stanisław Wyspiański and “Tumor Brainio wicz” by Stanisław Witkiewicz had their premieres here. Last year, we celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Slowacki Theatre. On that occasion, the exhibition called “Theatre’s Gardens” was organized in “Malo polska Garden of Arts.” The goal of the exhibition was to give the visitor, by the use of flowers, an insight into the history of Young Poland theatre (characteristic iris flowers), Interbellum theatre (tuberoses and pears), and theatre of the PRL period (carnations) and Modern-day theatre (flowers of all types, yet to be defined).

Opening the following ceremony of the 12th Congress of Polish Odontologists, after refreshments, you will be invited to see the play “Arsenic and Old Lace” by Joseph Kesserling in the Slowacki Theatre. As if it was especial ly staged to satisfy our meeting’s allusive needs. The play is a very recent commission, the exhibition called “Theatre’s Gardens” was organized in “Malo polska Garden of Arts.” The goal of the exhibition was to give the visitor, by the use of flowers, an insight into the history of Young Poland theatre (characteristic iris flowers), Interbellum theatre (tuberoses and pears), and theatre of the PRL period (carnations) and Modern-day theatre (flowers of all types, yet to be defined).

Deliberations of the Congress will take place in the modern lecture halls of Auditorium Maximum of Jagiel lonian University where history intermingles with modernity as during the virtual poster session when authors of the posters will be invited to join us online.

Cracow - the city of the greatest number of Nobel Prize winners, the city of kings and pigeons, the city of the one and only Jagiellonian University, the city of the most prominent Pole, John Paul II, the city of festi vals and enchanted cabs, the city of Piotr Skrzynecki and his Cellar under the Rams, the city with magical Kazimierz. For the time of Congress, we will become a part of Cracow, and hence part of the living history, thanks to our participation in this memorable event.

On behalf of Polish Dental Society, we express our thanks and apprecia tion for the wide participation of partner companies in the 12th Congress of Polish Odontologists. Without you, the Congress could not be successful. We also would like to thank all participants for coming to Cracow, we wish you a nice stay in this particular place, creative revival during deliberations of Congress, but also the moments of relaxation pleasant encounters and reflections on your own professional accomplishments.

Once again, welcome and we hope you will enjoy the positive atmosphere of the 12th Congress of Polish Odontologists!