



Dear Participants to the 9th ICUH,

As Founding President of the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH), I welcome you to the 9th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH) under the theme “Good Governance for Healthy Cities.” On behalf of The New York Academy of Medicine, we are pleased to be hosting the meeting in 2010, which the World Health Organization has declared the Year of Urban Health.

This year’s program brings together a truly international group of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and members of civil society. Last year’s conference in Nairobi featured over 700 participants, and this year promises another strong showing. Forty-five countries will be represented across a program, including twelve plenary sessions, almost 450 oral sessions, 300 posters, three satellite meetings and almost 30 workshops.

We gather to reflect upon the challengers of global urbanization, and to draw upon our diverse perspectives and areas of expertise as we craft responses. Accordingly, the first day will have an international emphasis, and will culminate in an opening reception at the UN in honor of the Year of Urban Health. The second day’s focus will be on city-level solutions, and the third day’s will be on the contributions of civil society and business to good governance for urban health.

We are gratified to share our location this year with the Pan American Health Organization’s Regional Urban Health Forum, which will be ongoing

Welcome

this week at the Academy. Two satellite programs include the Harlem Community Academic Partnership's "Faces of Urban Health" program at Touro College of Pharmacy, and "The University and Urban Health," a meeting being held at Hunter College, City University of New York. The latter provides an international network of academic programs in urban health to better prepare the next generation of researchers and practitioners.

This is an exciting time for ISUH, which has grown rapidly over the last few years. We are pleased to have had meetings in North America, Europe, and Africa, and look forward to making it to all parts of the globe. We wish to thank our funders and sponsors, whose contributions have enriched the pool of scholars we could invite, as well as the Board and the program committee of the International Society for Urban Health, the nearly one hundred peer reviewers of abstracts, and the leadership and staff at the New York Academy of Medicine who have worked hard to make this event a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Vlahov', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Vlahov, PhD, RN
Founding President, ISUH