



Mobilising  
Action  
Inspiring  
Change



**Prof. Tezer Kutluk**

**President, Union for International Cancer Control**

**Speech World Cancer Congress Opening Ceremony**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, Paris, France**

Ladies, gentlemen and distinguished guests,

My name is Tezer Kutluk and I am the President of the UICC.

It is my honor this evening to welcome you all to the World Cancer Congress here in Paris. This is our opportunity to enjoy each others' company before the hard work starts tomorrow!

I know that many of you have travelled long distances to be with us tonight and I would like to register my appreciation for the efforts many of you have made to be here.

In the room we have leaders from the United Nations, International organisations, cancer and NCD NGOs and the private sector.

We have young leaders and old leaders (like me)

We have outstanding individuals who inspire us all through their dedication and commitment.

We have scientists, researchers, oncologists, advocates, nurses, CEOs and Presidents.

We have ministers of health and representatives from ministries from 11 countries.

Some of us are survivors. All of us have lost someone to cancer.

We share a burning ambition to reduce the burden of cancer globally, by driving equitable availability and access to information, early detection and diagnosis and improved outcomes for patients. And that is what binds us together.

And between us we have the abilities, resources and influence to impact the future. To give hope to the next generation. To give hope to our children and their children also.

And that, ladies gentlemen and distinguished guests is why we are in Paris at the World Cancer Congress.

It is my duty this evening to thank the individuals and organisations who have contributed to delivering this week of incredible events in Paris.

Let me start by thanking Jacqueline Godet, the Board and staff of La Ligue and Alliam who have been our host partners, this week in Paris.

Thank you Jacqueline for your leadership and support.

I would also like to recognise the contribution of the Host Committee whose members have helped raise the profile of the Congress across Europe.

Such an event as this involves many people and from all parts of the world.

The Congress and Summit Committees include UICC Board members and volunteers who work diligently with the UICC team in Geneva to bring together a week of:

- Nearly 150 sessions,
- 57 organisations in the Global Village
- More than 450 speakers and presenters
- More than 3000 delegates from 139 countries

It is a mammoth task to ensure that the content and the logistics are delivered with outstanding professionalism so that we all get the most out of the few days we are in this beautiful city.

Let me name a few stars in our midst.

The Programme co-chairs, Sanchia Aranda from Australia and Anil D'Cruz from India and the track chairs: Sarah Hiom, Terry Slevin, Fatima Cardoso, Mary Gospodarowicz, Anna Boltong, Jane Maher, Heather Bryant, Richard Sullivan, Saunthari Somasudaram and Susan Henshall. Plus I must mention David Hill who led our Abstracts Committee.

Thank you to all of you for your commitment over the last two years. Can we please show our appreciation for all their work.

I must mention the UICC Congress team in Geneva which is so ably led by the incredible Jessica Mathieu and the other members of the team in Geneva who I know have played their part in making this a week of great interaction and learning for us all.

Perhaps I could ask the UICC team to stand up so we can formally recognize them!

I would also like to thank the Summit Platinum Sponsors. Namely:

- the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer,
- Merck Serono,
- the Merck Group,
- the National Cancer Institute USA
- Pfizer and
- Roche.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who will be working hard for the next few days and the students from the International School Tunon.

Finally I would like to thank President Hollande for so graciously being with our community this evening and sharing his views on global health and the challenges we face addressing cancer in France, Europe and the world.

The next three days will work if you are willing to share, learn, engage and reach out to your fellow delegates so that we leave inspired and enthused in our shared ambition to reduce the global cancer burden.

I know that the true value of a Congress is its ability to help you all return to your own countries and organisations with new ideas, tools, skills and connections which will improve the way you impact your communities next week.

I believe that no matter who you are and where you live, this Congress will help you learn something new which will help you improve cancer control in your country.

Whether that be focused on one cancer or many, in prevention, early detection, treatment or palliative care. In high, middle or low income settings. I am sure that you will find something in Paris this week which can help you be better at what you do.

It has taken two years to perfect the next three days. I hope the impact will be for many years.

May I wish you a wonderful Congress.