



INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
HEALTHCARE
ENGINEERING

IFHE Christmas Newsletter President's Message

Christmas, holiday season and New Years is a time for reflection, and as I look back on 2022, I feel very proud of what the **global healthcare engineering community** has accomplished during extremely difficult times. You have continued to work through the pandemic challenges throughout the world and demonstrated the resiliency that has been required due to vast weather-related emergencies. There has been a great focus on climate change and reducing the healthcare carbon footprint. Sustainability project work globally is truly inspiring, but we must share our learnings with each other and continue the good work. All people within the healthcare engineering community, whether associated with facility operations, design, construction, bio-medical, planning, or maintenance have been under great stress but have met the challenges with great determination, innovative ideas, and dedication. You all should be very proud of your accomplishments.

I am also very proud of **IFHE's** accomplishments this year as after years of planning with the **Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society (CHES)** we successfully carried out the **27th Congress of IFHE** in Toronto, Canada. Seeing and meeting people in person at an IFHE Congress was uplifting and truly exciting. We presented the first annual **IFHE Global Healthcare Energy Awards** there and thanks to the hundreds of facilities that participated. And of course, congratulations to all the winners. Many thanks to CHES for hosting us in such a sensational way. IFHE continues to work with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in providing engineering expertise to those in need. Many thanks to those professionals that have volunteered their valuable time to help others around the world. I am also very happy about our new and improved newsletter as we know that our communication with our members is extremely important. Our **2023 IFHE Digest** has also been published and distributed recently so please look at it and share with anyone in the healthcare engineering community. There are many excellent articles covering decarbonization of healthcare facilities, covid solutions, challenges for women in healthcare engineering, ventilation in residential care centres, navigating the road to net-zero, digital water management, innovative solutions for Operating Rooms, and many more timely topics.



Looking into 2023, I see the need to continue the focus on **Climate Change** in both decarbonization of our facilities and building resiliency to extreme weather conditions. **At COP27** it was stated that on a global average basis, healthcare systems account for over 4% of global CO2 emissions. For most industrialized nations, that figure is closer to 10% of national emissions. That is more than the aviation or shipping sectors. As an industry, which includes health technology companies, healthcare systems and other stakeholders, we have a responsibility to act. It is time to extend the principle of **“first, do no harm”** – the very foundation of healthcare – to the planet. There has been a lot of good work done, but of course, there is so much more to do.

Staffing shortages in healthcare will also need to be addressed as we focus on recruitment and retention of staff. This includes our engineering personnel, so succession planning is a must. The respectful treatment of staff including ongoing training and education is of ultimate importance.

As for **IFHE**, I look forward to work with the other members of the **Executive Committee (ExCo)** to continue to improve communication with our members, and to fulfill our mandate to encourage and facilitate exchange of information and experience in healthcare facility design, construction, engineering, operation, commissioning, maintenance, and estate management. There has never been a time more important than now to share our learnings and experience. We will do our best in adding value to your membership. I also look forward to our next in person **Council Meeting in Mexico City**, November 4th 2023. IFHE will join the **Sociedad Mexicana de Arquitectos Especializados en Salud (SMAES)** for their annual conference that will take place between November 3rd – 9th. **IFHE EU** will also be meeting for their **10th Congress in Paris, France from June 14th- 16th, 2023**.

I wish you and your families a **Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!** As the New Year approaches, I hope the best for you in 2023!

Steve Rees
President, IFHE

*Merry
Christmas*
• AND HAPPY NEW YEAR •