

Preface

Top healthcare research in Vienna ... as basis for medical excellence in Vienna

Welcome to Vienna! It is a great pleasure to welcome you to our wonderful city!

Vienna has an excellent reputation as a research location and congress venue. I am therefore particularly happy to open the Annual Integrated Care Conference INIC09 that takes place in Vienna for the first time. I hope you will also find the time to indulge in our city's cultural programme.

As Executive City Councillor for Public Health it is one of my main objectives to provide all Viennese irrespective of their income, background, age and gender with the best possible healthcare. The City of Vienna strives to provide all its citizens with excellent healthcare focusing on humanity. We have a long tradition of science, research and training in Vienna, which enables us to provide modern healthcare. The hospitals of the City of Vienna, above all the Vienna General Hospital, are our centres of innovation, research and development. The hospitals focus on a dialogue between research and healthcare and on communication between healthcare experts and patients. Healthcare and research are a team in Vienna and patients directly benefit from both.

Integrated care and the coordinated and continuous cooperation between the individual sectors and types of care have contributed to improving patient care. Integrated care will be increasingly important in the future. Enhanced services to support patients and

their families to recover, get out of hospital and regain full health and independence further improve the individual situations of all persons involved.

The 'Medical Scientific Fund of the Mayor of the City of Vienna', that was founded 30 years ago, has considerably contributed to the Viennese research landscape. The fund primarily promotes excellent research projects by Viennese health professionals.

The fund regularly invites health professionals to submit research projects on specific topics. Integrated care is one of the main research areas of the 'Medical Scientific Fund of the Mayor of the City of Vienna' to further establish the topic in Vienna's research landscape.

I am proud to open this year's Integrated Care Conference that takes place in a German-speaking country for the first time. I am convinced that the intensive exchange of experiences with international experts will lead to a knowledge gain and will benefit the Viennese on a broad basis.

I wish you a wonderful time in Vienna and an interesting conference!

Sonja Wehsely,
*Executive City Councillor for
Public Health and Social Affairs*