



# EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Section of Occupational Medicine

Barcelona

26<sup>th</sup> October 2012



**UEMS** Barcelona 2012.10.26



□ **Welcome**

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❑ **Societat Catalana de Seguretat i Medicina del Treball**



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## □ Sociedad Española de Medicina y Seguridad en el Trabajo



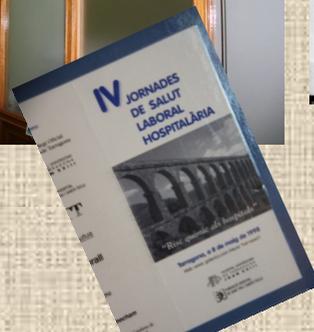
**Pedro Gonzalez de Castro**



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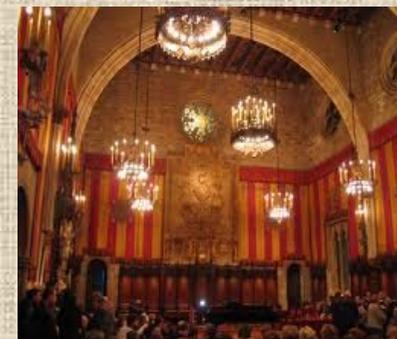
## Societat Catalana de Seguretat i Medicina del Treball



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**Thank you for your attention**

Mr. President, dear sirs and madams,

My name is Àngel Plans and 'm the president of the Societat Catalana de Seguretat i Medicina del Treball, the Catalan Society of Occupational Medicine.

It is a great pleasure for me to meet you here, in my town, Barcelona, for your six-monthly meeting.

First of all, let me to start my words by sending a welcome from all the 700 members of our association, and especially from the board. They all would have liked to be here with us, and I will act in representation of them. We were very happy some months ago when you accepted the city of Barcelona for this meeting and, now we are very happy that finally you managed to come and spend some hours with us.

I want to thank M.Cruz, Consol and Charo Rodriguez, the board secretary, for all the work they have done to organize the meeting and the other activities.

I also want to thank everyone of you for the effort of being here and I wish that the time you spend with us will be profitable for you.

The Catalan Society of Occupational Medicine, born in 1957, is one of the 14 Spanish societies which compose the Sociedad Española de Medicina y Seguridad en el Trabajo, a federated association presided by Dr. Pedro Gonzalez. He is now flying from Sevilla to Barcelona, in order to join us tomorrow at the UEMS meeting.

The Spanish society has 3000 members, of which approximately 25% belong to the Catalan Society, making it one of the most important regional societies in Spain. Since its foundation, the Catalan Society tried to have contact with other Societies in other countries, initially the French society, the Italian society,...until we met the UEMS section of Occupational Medicine!

In recent years you have come to Barcelona for two meetings. I personally remember the last one, in 2004, when we could arrange a reception for you in the most important hall of our City Hall, the Salo de Cent, where I tried to address some words of welcome to you. Those of you who were there can confirm that my English has not improved since then, but my satisfaction of being with you has not diminished!!

Barcelona, our city, has changed in these years, but even in these times of crisis, Barcelona maintains her permanent aim of being the gate of Europe for the rest of Spain. In this sense, I would like to comment a fact, obviously anecdotic, but which involves you.

The hotel that we have chosen for your stay, the building where you are going to spend some hours, The Catalonia Berna, was built at the end of the 19th century. It's a nice building with some ancient pictures on its wall. This building, and the one in front of it, were the first ones to be constructed in a new urban plan for Barcelona: the "plan Cerda" . This new development plan, with regular squares and large and straight avenues is called "L'Eixample", and accounts for nearly 40% percent of the area of our city.

Ildefons Cerda, the father of this plan, was a Catalan architect with an open and pro-European mind: he used to say that his ideas of a modern town could also be seen in modern cities as Paris or London. It might surprise you, but these ideas were not very frequent in the Spanish society of the end of the XIX century.

GAES, the enterprise which welcomes us today, is also a Catalan enterprise with a long history and a strong will to be open to the world, and nowadays, has representation in many European countries.

Tomorrow morning, at the beginning of your meeting in our premises, I will try to explain you the situation of Occupational Medicine here in Spain, and the troubles we are facing. But now, let me only thank you for your attention and GAES for its kind collaboration.

Thank you very much