

**MARIO COHEN, MD
PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH
OCTOBER 10, 2018**

THANK YOU DR. ACHONG.

IN THE NAME OF HARTFORD COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP, YOUR ENERGY AND THE EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT YOU DEVOTED TO OUR ORGANIZATION. YOUR WORK WILL MOVE OUR ORGANIZATION INTO THE FUTURE.

NATALIE, YOUR ACT WILL BE HARD TO FOLLOW.

WITH THIS IN MIND; I AM DELIGHTED YOU ALL HAVE BESTOWED IN ME YOUR TRUST AND FAITH AS THE INCOMING PRESIDENT OF THE HARTFORD COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, ONE OF THE OLDEST ORGANIZATIONS OF THIS KIND IN THE COUNTRY.

I WANT TO THANK YOU: THE MEMBERS, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, PAST PRESIDENTS, IMPORTANT POLITICIANS, RYDER MANAGEMENT (BETTER KNOWN AS BARBARA AND CHERIE), OUR LOBBYISTS, JIM PAOLINO, ROSS GIONFRIDDO AND BILL MALITSKY AND OUR SPONSORS: ABBVIE, AVION PHARMACEUTICALS, BERNSTEIN PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, BLUMSHAPRIO, CSMS-IPA, GARFUNKEL WILD, HARTFORD HEALTHCARE MEDICAL GROUP, MW FINANCIAL GROUP, METAGENICS, MURTHA CULLINA, SYNERGY PHARMACEUTICALS, UCONN HEALTH CENTER, UPDIKE, KELLY & SPELLACY AND WEBSTER BANK. I ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR NUMEROUS EXHIBITORS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT AS WELL. AND THANKS TO ALL MY FRIENDS.

FINALLY, I WANT TO THANK MY DEAR WIFE, BETTINA, MY CHILDREN, JENA, DAN AND MATHEW, MY GRANDCHILDREN, LAILA AND NORA AS THIS WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE IF I DIDN'T HAVE THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT. YOU ALL ARE AN INSPIRATION, A CHALLENGE AND AN AVENUE FOR US TO CONTINUE DOING THESE GREAT WORKS.

WITH ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH MY ACCEPTANCE TO SERVE US ALL, I AM OF THE BELIEF THAT THIS JOURNEY WILL NOT BE A SMOOTH ONE IF I AM TO WALK ALONE.

YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT WILL BE FUNDAMENTAL IN THESE TIMES OF COMPLEXITY AND EXTREME PRESSURES ON OUR PROFESSIONAL LIVES.

MY MESSAGE IS NOT JUST FOR YOU, IT IS FOR OUR COLLEAGUES THAT ARE NOT HERE WITH US THIS EVENING, TO LET THEM KNOW, THAT WE ARE HERE TO REPRESENT THEM, TO ADVOCATE FOR THEM, TO LISTEN TO OUR CRITICS AND GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT.

LET US ALL TOGETHER NAVIGATE THE ROUGH WATERS AHEAD,

THANK YOU AGAIN.