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Zaragoza, 04 Junio 2024

To the President of the EU Commission, Mrs Ursula von der Leyen

Distinguished President, Distinguished Doctor:

First of all, we hope and wish you all the best on receiving this letter.

We are writing to you in our capacity as medical doctors, in the hope that, sharing this profession with you, you will be able to understand our concern and interest in a matter which we would like to bring to your attention, if you will forgive our boldness, and of which we would like to make you aware.

The reason for this letter is none other than to inform you that in June 2019 we sent a letter to UNESCO (Mrs Audrey Azoulay) and to WHO (Dr Tedros Adhanom) with the proposal that the CLINICAL HISTORY, the ANAMNESIS, could be protected and considered as a MATERIAL PATRIMONY OF HUMANITY, since we are noticing in the practice of this profession, medicine, how, perhaps due to different circumstances, the extraordinary value and importance of this first contact with the patient can be lost, contact which gives rise to the drafting of this document, and that is sometimes overshadowed by technological progress, which must, of course, be incorporated, as it always has been, for the benefit of an increasingly personalised and efficient medical practice.

This document, the Clinical History, which, as you know, is not only of medical-legal interest, but also of health, teaching, research and epidemiological interest, has been, since the origins of mankind, the cornerstone and an act of incalculable value in the history of medicine, which is the history of civilisation. It has been and still is of inestimable value for the current knowledge of diseases, and therefore we believe that it should be preserved for future generations and protected as a World Heritage Site.

Let it not remain a dream, but let this proposal become a reality through the impulse and drive of people who understand it, who will nurture it and make it advance towards the goal of its recognition, and let the appropriate authorities manage this project, which is already known to UNESCO and the World Health Organisation.

The maturity and current development of medicine is the gratitude and recognition of those who have gone before us, and this should continue with the passage of time.

It is for these reasons that we venture to ask you for your help and if you are interested in this matter, in your agenda, which we understand is so complex and delicate, to be able to count on your valuable contribution to this subject, given your sensitivity from the medical field, knowing that these processes can be complex and that perhaps the pandemic has been able to delay its assessment by UNESCO.

By protecting the clinical history, the anamnesis, let us continue to be an example and a reference, to be able to continue to write, to contribute and to add to this vocation of trying to alleviate illness, in the knowledge that this great medical act could be a World Heritage Site.

Thank you very much for your valuable time.

Kind regards,

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(We are attaching some documents just in case you consider to take them into account)