

Professor Pittet's message for 5 May 2013

This year, once again, the global movement catalysed by WHO around hand hygiene in health care is showing its amazing vitality! Many national and local campaigns have organized activities and celebrations to respond to the WHO call to action on hand hygiene monitoring and feedback and patient participation in hand hygiene promotion, including some quite innovative approaches to these key topics. You will hear all about these in my special lecture on 6 May 2013.

5 May has also received formal and concrete support from major infection control networks, societies, partners and centres worldwide. Web site links and information on these stakeholders' support will be featured by WHO on the 5 May web pages in the coming weeks. Such continuous efforts and progress demonstrate two important facts:

- awareness-raising continues and stimulates new health-care facilities to join and engage in hand hygiene improvement;
- facilities and countries that have achieved significant progress are determined to sustain it with renewed efforts and innovation, and to strengthen their leadership through research and spread. This was our dream when we launched the First Global Patient Safety Challenge back in 2005!

We have some more input to provide you with and we still need your help to once again achieve a very successful 5 May this year! I invite you to encourage some “not yet registered” health-care facilities to join **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**, and to continue to prepare for your celebrations and activities planned around 5 May, involving patients in particular.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Didier Pittet

Director, Infection Control Programme, University of Geneva Hospitals and Faculty of Medicine

External Programme Lead, WHO First Global Patient Safety Challenge: Clean Care is Safer Care