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When we began this journey of INEBRIA together, in 2004, with the foundation of the network and the holding of the first conference in Barcelona, little did we suspect that we would come to be holding our 9th conference. In this time the network has grown a lot, bringing together now more than 350 experts from all around the world, and little by little becoming the reference and meeting point for all of us who work in BI. This has been possible thanks to all the members, to the selfless efforts of all coordinating committee members and particularly the leadership of the presidents. Now, with the retirement of our esteemed colleague Nick Heather, to whom we are enormously grateful for his work and complicity during all of these years, we find before us an opportunity to demonstrate the maturity of the Network. Catalonia will continue to do, as it has done up until now, everything possible to give continuity to the secretariat and support to the organization of the various activities and conferences, but we cannot do it alone. We are counting on all of you.

For those who still wonder about the reasons for Catalonia's interest in INEBRIA, I want to tell you that from the Program on Substance Abuse we have been working for 17 years on the implementation of Brief interventions in the clinical practice of the health services and the changes that have been achieved, albeit difficulties, encourage us to keep working along this line and to extend it beyond primary healthcare with projects in the ambit of hospitals, health at work and antenatal health.

As you are aware, the socio-economic situation in which we live in Catalonia is not propitious for celebrations and it has not been easy to make this event possible. However, the effort made is in accordance with our enthusiasm and desire to make it happen, and above all our desire to continue strengthening our commitment to BI and to go on learning from all of you and the work and research that you do.

I hope that this conference will enrich us, that it will enable us to share experiences, to broaden our knowledge, to establish new collaborations and above all, that it will make us grow. I welcome you all to Barcelona and to the 9th Annual INEBRIA Conference.