Candidacy
for
Secretary General

J. Vasco Barreto
Portuguese Internist
Pedro Hispano Hospital, Matosinhos Local Health Unit, Oporto
Head of the Internal Medicine Service since 2016
Professor at Oporto University
PhD candidate
Portuguese Society of Internal Medicine since 2018 (currently Vice President)
Associated Editor of the Portuguese Journal of Internal Medicine
EFIM Quality of Care and Professional Issues Working Group since 2018
Organizing Committee of the 18th European Congress of Internal Medicine
Candidacy support:
Internal Medicine is the original matrix of all medical specialties
Growing knowledge led to the development of multiple specialties
There is a risk of emptying of “general” Internal Medicine
Older population, multimorbidity and increasing clinical complexity

Generalists are indispensable

Covid-19 pandemic: need for Internal Medicine as core hospital specialty
Across Europe, different models of Internal Medicine

Double titration system:
Common trunk (general IM)
Subspecialization

Portugal, Spain, etc:
Internal Medicine as a final specialty
Other specialties are not titrated as Internists

In either of these models
Subspecialties fit well
General Internal Medicine does not have a well defined role or identity everywhere
I see generalism as a value, not as a status of indefferentiation

Internists are the experts in the exhaustive approach to each patient

This skill that must be present at all hospital sectors

No other specialty can accomplish it
General Internal Medicine needs to be recognized as the **fundamental hospital medical specialty**

General Internists must be the core of **multidisciplinary hospital teams**

- Acute patients at general wards and at disease-specific units
- Co-management in surgical Services
- Leadership of innovative healthcare structures
  - Hospital at home
  - Day hospitals
  - Quick Diagnostic Units
- Case management programs for complex chronic patients
Achieving uniformity in the identity of European Internal Medicine is unrealistic.

We can strengthen the position of General Internal Medicine at our National Health Systems and redefine its fundamental role in the Hospital organization.

As EFIM’s Secretary General, this would be my main goal.
Thank you