

Dear Distinguished guests,  
Greeting from The Netherlands!

First of all, I'd like to say that I would love to be with you all in my home town of Guadalajara today on such an important occasion.

It goes without saying that I am both thrilled and proud to be the official Ambassador for the 48<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health taking place in Guadalajara in October this year. My heartfelt thanks go to José Luis Castro, Executive Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I know too, that all my colleagues who support the work of the Andrés Guardado Foundation are also excited and equally as proud to be associated with such a prestigious and vital conference.

I am delighted to be part of this event because I believe it stands for all the values we strive to teach at the Andrés Guardado Foundation. I set up the Andrés Guardado Foundation with one overriding objective in mind – to give a future to children who have not had the opportunities to enjoy being kids or young adults simply because they come from marginalised backgrounds. No child, no adolescent and no human being should ever be deprived of the basic human necessities and human rights just because of where they are born and raised. No. I believe in the Union's philosophy.

Having access to health is key to guaranteeing a child's future development and I strongly believe that the Union Conference has been at the forefront in pushing an agenda that promotes access to life saving drugs, especially in the field of tuberculosis for so many years now. The Union's work saves lives.

I also understand that the conference this year will focus heavily of the adverse impact of tobacco, air pollution and diabetes and I know my team and I at the Foundation are keen to learn more about these issues and their impact on our younger generation's health so we can play our part in educating our kids in a more informed way.

It will be my privilege to listen and learn from collaborating with all of you in the lead in to the 48<sup>th</sup>

Union World Conference on Lung Health. And I want to be of help wherever I can in spreading the word about the importance of this event amongst my Jalisco “family” but also across Mexico, Latin America and the world.

Let’s make Guadalajara proud!

Thank you, all the best and see you soon!

Andrés Guardado