

## **O CAMPO DOS CASTELLOS**

A Europa jaz, posta nos cotovellos:

De Oriente a Occidente jaz, fitando,

E toldam-lhe românticos cabelos

Olhos gregos, lembrando.

O cotovello esquerdo é recuado;

O direito é em ângulo disposto.

Aquella diz Italia onde é pousado;

Este diz Inglaterra onde, afastado,

A mão sustenta, em que se apoia o rosto.

Fita, com olhar sphingico e fatal,

O Occidente, futuro do passado.

O rosto com que fita é Portugal.

Fernando Pessoa *in Mensagem*, 1934

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**Sr. Ministro da Saúde – Dr. Paulo Macedo**

**Sr. Dr. Menezes em representação do Chefe do Estado-maior da Armada**

**Sr. Director Geral da Saúde- Dr. Francisco George**

**Sr. Bastonário da Ordem dos Enfermeiros – Enf. Germano Couto**

**President of EORNA – Caroline Higgins**

**Invited guests**

**Dear Colleagues**

**Ladies and gentlemen:**

On behalf of AESOP, the Portuguese perioperative nurses association, which I have the privilege of representing, I warmly welcome you all to this congress, to this city and to this country.

I challenge you to let yourself be surprised by the enchanting people of Portugal.

It is true that we mix *saudade* (that means nostalgia) and sun in our lives, the past and future in our present and the sea and music in our souls.

Nevertheless, it is also the truth that we are, historically and socially, an open community with the ability of absorbing others cultures without losing our own, and that is something you can see just going around this beautiful city of Lisbon.

But, as said by this great poet Fernando Pessoa, it is through the Portuguese virtues that the nation will renovate itself and be great again, as in the past.

So, this is our message to all of us that came to Lisbon to give, share and communicate that which we believe is the excellence, the strengths and the threats in perioperative care:

- We must understand and assume the best practice that we have in common and accept the differences that identifies each of us, so we can raise a solid and accredited frame of perioperative care.

This challenge is put in place by understanding that the person, as surgical patient, deserves and expects a coordinated approach to their care.

Also a more articulate and informed society, demands high levels of the standards of care, to ensure the best outcomes.

To integrate the patient in health care is to integrate each other in this commitment of excellence, and become responsible and accountable for the care that we deliver and receive through our lives.

I ask, to all of us, that in the next 3 days, we open our minds, hearts, tongues and hands, to let knowledge and dreams, influence the future of perioperative nursing care in Europe.

Let's be prepared!

Mercedes Bilbao  
23 Abril 2012  
(Dia de S. Jorge)