

**March 4, 2010
Dear Dr Schaller,**

Because of communication difficulties I couldn't answer earlier to your mail. Your words of compassion from the IPA were of great help during such a distressing moment. The violent earthquake of January 12th has made a lot of victims in Haiti and has destroyed about 50% of public health facilities in the western area particularly in Port-au-Prince. Many pediatricians have lost relatives, their house or their office. Three pediatricians died and many have left the country because they have lost everything.

An important movement of solidarity from all over the world is still helping in the early recovery phase. In the University Hospital of Port-au-Prince, the pediatric ward is out of function. Thanks to Swiss cooperation, many tents were made available allowing volunteers, Haitian pediatricians and nurses to provide health care to children, but the conditions of work need to be improved and the training program is particularly affected because our library , our computers, our didactic material are all destroyed.

Now, even though we don't feel safe (because of the aftershocks) I think that the emergency phase is over. Now we have to deal with a lot of orphans, of handicapped children (amputees); we have to prevent epidemics, provide psychosocial support to traumatized children and parents; we have to put children back to school. Now the rainy season has started with so many children without a roof! The needs are enormous and the financial and personnel resources very few.

After this earthquake, Haiti is in a critical moment. Nevertheless, this crisis is an opportunity to build a health system more centered on human beings, more accessible and more equitable particularly for children. The Haitian Pediatric Society is very committed not only in rescue activity but also in planning long term recovery for children of my country and for the pediatricians.

You would be very kind to transmit our warm regards, our sincere thanks to IPA and all the pediatric societies and all pediatricians and nurses who came from all continents to help so generously the Haitian people.

God bless you all.

Very sincerely

**Dr Ronald Eveillard
President of Haitian Pediatric Society**