Five hundred years have elapsed since the publication in 1511 of the pharmacopoeia known as *Concordia de Barcelona*, which addressed and regulated the problem of the lack of uniformity among Barcelona pharmacists in the preparation of medicines prescribed by doctors. In a daring departure from tradition it was the apothecaries themselves who through the *Barcelona Colegio de Boticarios* drafted this text in an attempt to break away from the scientific direction of doctors, thereby marking an important milestone in the progressive expansion of the profession.

Moreover, from a purely pharmaceutical point of view, this pharmacopoeia occupies an important place among early published pharmacopoeiae. Although the *Recetario Florentino*, edited in Florence in 1498, is earlier it was written not by pharmacists but by doctors. Likewise, in spite of claims that the *Valencia Officina Medicamentorum* of 1601 was the first official pharmacopoeia because it more closely conforms to the terminology dictated by the WHO, a regulatory system dictated by a twentieth-century institution cannot be rigidly applied to texts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Therefore, based on these two premises, it would be reasonable to declare the *Concordia Apothecariorum Barchinonesium* as the first global pharmacopoeia compiled and written by pharmacists for pharmacists.

We believe that this Conference will provide an ideal opportunity for us to contribute to the various events planned by other institutions throughout 2011 to commemorate this important text and allow it to become more widely known internationally.