

# Welcome Address

**Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Partners,** We are delighted to welcome you to the inaugural Independent Ageing Convention to be held on **13-15 October 2023 in Aichi, Japan with the official support of Aichi Prefecture.**

The global median age is steadily increasing, a testament to the advances of modern medicine, public health and healthcare, with the number of people above 60 reaching 1 billion in 2019. This evolution of our society necessitates a change in our perceptions, establishing a new societal paradigm that enables ageing persons to fully enjoy their rights and new systems of support for maintaining a healthy and independent life as we age.

In order to ensure we remain independent in our daily activities, maintaining our functional ability and connected with our family, community, and environment, we need innovative and creative solutions and, most importantly, a comprehensive approach that challenges ageism and encompasses the multidimensional and intersecting spheres of life.

With Independent Ageing, we aim to create a platform for both commercial tradeshow and professional sessions (B2B, B2P and B2G) that will present innovative solutions and technologies for the increasing independent ageing population. This is the place where we can:

- Introduce innovative solutions, new products and services, and state-of-the-art technologies
- Change the narrative about ageing
- Develop the related industries and services together
- Establish new collaborations
- Listen to and meet the needs and wants of this growing market
- Make a positive impact to the lives of millions

In parallel to the exhibition, a curated program of dedicated tracks and plenary sessions will help us further understand the relationship between ageing and important aspects of our society, such as the economy, workforce, healthcare, the environment, pandemics, and more. Not to miss will be the discussions about local and national level policies that will help respond to the new realities of the ageing population.

Whether you are a business owner or a professional working in long-term care, healthcare, human resources, banking and finance, insurance, tourism, entertainment, creative industries, government and social planning, human rights, lifelong education, retail, charity organizations, or any other industry serving ageing adults, Independent Ageing will provide unrivalled opportunities to showcase solutions, make connections, advance professionally, and gain new insights and perspectives on what the future holds.

Join us at Aichi Sky Expo and let's pave the way to a better, healthier, and more independent future for all!

On behalf of the Program Committee, **Prof. Hidenori Arai**,  
*President, National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology,*  
*Japan*

**Prof. Uzi Beller**, *Assuta-Ashdod Medical Center, Ben Gurion*  
*University of the Negev, Israel*

**Silvia Perel-Levin**, *Past Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing*  
*in Geneva; Representative to the UN of the International*  
*Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the*  
*International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA),*  
*Switzerland/Israel*

**Prof. Israel Doron**, *Director, Department of Gerontology,*  
*University of Haifa, Israel*