INVITATION LETTER

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I am pleased to invite you to the 10th International Conference on Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs (ICORD), which will take place in Mexico City, October 15-16, 2015.

This ICORD meeting will be connected to two other significant events in the week of October 12-16 which is designated “Global Rare Diseases Week, Mexico 2015”, and promoted by the local hosts Proyecto Pide un Deseo Mexico, PPuDM, and the Mexican Federation of Rare Diseases, FEMEXER. All three meetings will be developed in a coordinated format to incorporate all the main topics of interest for rare diseases and orphan drugs. This week of “Discoveries and Findings” will emphasise the needs and possible solutions for rare diseases.

Starting the week on Monday October 12, 2015 will be the 5th Latin American meeting of Rare Diseases, ER2015LA, jointly organised by FEMEXER and the GEISER Foundation (The Group of Linkage, Research and Support for Rare Diseases), the pioneer institution in the region for those affected by rare conditions. For the first time, this regional meeting of rare diseases patient groups will open its doors to world-wide organizations wishing to discuss concerns and priorities for affected families. The Discoveries & Innovations in Orphan Drugs congress (D&IOD), will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday October 13-14, 2015. ICORD is delighted to be welcomed to these meetings to share ideas and learn from the local experiences.

ER2015LA and D&IOD will provide an exciting prelude to the 10th ICORD meeting which closes the week on Thursday and Friday October 15-16, 2015. The ICORD meeting will concentrate on global policies and successful models of many aspects of rare diseases to be expanded to more countries and regions. The ICORD sessions provide opportunities for researchers, regulatory, industry and patient organization groups to express their special needs and develop joint activities. The conference proceedings will be published in the journal Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs, allowing all contributors to expand their links and outreach.

The past ICORD meetings have contributed to the globalization of ICORD, an increased understanding of world-wide needs as well as enlarging the visions and contacts of our members. Indeed, rare diseases and orphan drugs are undoubtedly global matters, which in ICORD find a unique and transparent forum for discussions, presentations of ideas and collaboration.

We are very proud to celebrate our 10th consecutive ICORD conference and we look forward to welcoming you to ICORD 2015 in historic Mexico City, one of the largest cities in the world and the main capital of the Latin-American and Caribbean region.

John Forman
ICORD President and NZORD Executive Director