



28 April 2026

**Congratulations and Appreciation for Medical Services – Milano Cortina 2026
Paralympic Winter Games**

Dear Professor Massazza, Dear Giuseppe,

It is with the greatest pleasure and a very genuine sense of pride that we write to you, on behalf of the International Paralympic Committee, to convey our heartfelt congratulations to you personally and to every member of your remarkable medical team for the extraordinary standard of medical services delivered throughout the Paralympic Winter Games 2026.

The medical planning and operational delivery for these Games was, from the outset, a challenge of considerable complexity. Three geographically remote competition venues – each with its own distinct logistical demands, altitude considerations, and access constraints – presented an organisational undertaking that would have tested any medical team. The fact that your team not only rose to meet this challenge but did so with what appeared to the IPC Medical team to be effortless coordination and unwavering professionalism is a testament to the depth of planning, preparation, and leadership that you brought to this role.

The Field of Play medical services were exemplary throughout. Response times were rapid, clinical decision-making was sound, and the welfare of every competing athlete was placed at the absolute centre of every operational decision. Whether managing the acute demands of alpine events, the specific medical considerations of sled hockey, or the precise environmental challenges of biathlon and cross-country venues, your clinicians and paramedical staff performed with skill and composure.

The hospitals (polyclinics) established for this edition of the Paralympic Winter Games deserve particular acknowledgement. They were among the finest we have encountered in our collective experience of Paralympic competition environments – well-equipped, professionally staffed, thoughtfully designed for

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the needs of athletes with a wide range of impairments, and operated with a warmth and efficiency that made them a genuine place of trust and care within the athlete community. The feedback received from National Paralympic Committees and their medical delegates has been overwhelmingly positive, with numerous teams citing the polyclinic experience (Codivilla) as a highlight of their Games participation from a medical support perspective.

Beyond the operational excellence, we wish to highlight something that is perhaps less easily measured but no less important: the spirit in which your entire medical team carried out their work. The IPC Medical team experienced – without exception – a collegiality and a warmth from your staff that made collaboration not merely effective but genuinely enjoyable. Your colleagues were open, generous with their expertise, supportive in every interaction, and consistently placed the collective mission ahead of institutional boundaries. This is the hallmark of a great medical team, and it made the IPC's work alongside yours a true pleasure.

In settings as demanding as multi-venue Paralympic competition, where pressure is constant and the margin for error is small, it is the human dimension – trust, communication, mutual respect – that ultimately determines whether a medical programme succeeds or merely functions. Your team succeeded magnificently, and they did so while making everyone around them feel welcomed and valued.

We would be remiss if we did not speak to something that transcends the Games themselves: the remarkable and enduring legacy that this medical programme has created for the host regions. The investment in medical infrastructure – the polyclinics, the field of play facilities, the training of local medical personnel, and the protocols and systems that were built to support these Games – represents a generational gift to the communities that live and work in these areas.

The facilities that were established or significantly upgraded to serve the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games will continue to serve the local population for many years to come. They will provide residents of these regions, including people with disabilities, access to medical care and rehabilitation services that previously may not have existed at this level of quality or accessibility. This is precisely the kind of legacy that the Paralympic Movement exists to create – one that demonstrates that hosting Para sport is not only a sporting privilege but a catalyst for meaningful, lasting change in the health and wellbeing of communities.

The Medical Expert Group of the International Paralympic Committee is proud to have been part of a Games that leaves the host regions better served, better equipped, and better connected to the global standards of Paralympic athlete healthcare. That this legacy exists is, in no small part, a direct result of your vision, your advocacy, and the outstanding commitment of the team you built and led.

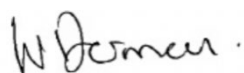
Professor Mazaza, the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games will be remembered – among many things – for the quality of the medical care that surrounded them. That is your achievement, and it is the achievement of each and every member of your team. We hope you take a moment to reflect on what has been accomplished and to feel the pride that is so thoroughly deserved.

Please extend our warmest personal congratulations to every doctor, nurse, physiotherapist, paramedic, and support team member who served these Games. They gave their best – and their best was outstanding.

We look forward to working alongside you and your colleagues again in future Paralympic endeavours, and we hope the friendships forged during these Games will endure long beyond them.

With warm regards and sincere congratulations,

Kind regards,



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