



# Ladies and gentlemen,

The coronavirus pandemic has had a tight grip on the world for more than two years now. A time that feels almost endless to many of us and has demanded a lot from us all. What started as an exceptional situation back then has now become everyday life. This makes it all the more important not just to return to our pre-crisis mode now. Instead, it is time for us as a society to learn from the past two years. We can

thereby ensure that we are better prepared to respond to pandemics and other disaster scenarios in the future.

This particularly applies to the healthcare sector, whose weaknesses were starkly exposed by the pandemic: gridlocked structures, chronic underfunding, ever-increasing bureaucratic obstacles and inadequate use of digital opportunities, to name just the most serious symptoms. There are many indications that our healthcare system urgently needs a radical reboot to be able to meet the challenges of the coming years. However, this will require courage from the new German government and from major institutions and players in the healthcare sector.

Asklepios Kliniken is already a pioneer in many areas here and has been pressing ahead with this transformation for years with many valuable initiatives, for example in the areas of digitalization and outpatient treatment. The headline topic for our annual report this year, “New Beginnings”, is therefore very fitting, as we have been contributing to improvements in German healthcare and actively helping shape medical progress for more than 35 years. Our success here is also reflected in the steady growth of our Group and in the annually increasing number of patients who have placed their trust in us since our foundation in 1985.

As a shareholder of Asklepios Kliniken, I am also personally committed to ensuring that we continue to put medical quality, innovation and social responsibility at the heart of what we do in the future, too. Sustainable corporate governance and growing corporate responsibility for our patients, employees and the environment go hand in hand with this. Preventive care and the health of our employees have always



been particularly important to me. I am therefore delighted that the Asklepios sustainability strategy also focuses on the key topic of employee health. You can find out more in our 2021 Corporate Responsibility Report.

The pandemic also showed that private operators have proven their strong performance in the crisis and protected our health-care system from collapse. In the past financial year alone, we provided inpatient care to more than 15,000 COVID-19 patients together with the Rhön hospitals. Our approximately 170 facilities across Germany showed how essential they are for the provision of healthcare, with our hospitals in Gauting, Burglengenfeld, Kandel, Schwedt and Weißenfels representing just a few examples. This was possible only thanks to the tireless dedication of our more than 67,000 employees throughout Germany.

So it is all the more important to us to remain a dependable and reliable employer for our employees in the future – including after the ongoing pandemic and in view of the growing challenges for the healthcare sector.

I would therefore like to express my sincere thanks to all the employees who have remained loyal to Asklepios for many years and who are doing their very best on a daily basis in these challenging times. In particular, I am delighted that we could welcome so many new colleagues into the Group due to the progressive integration of the Rhön hospitals last year. I am proud to be able to shape healthcare in Germany together with you. I am also particularly grateful to all the patients and partners who have placed their trust in Asklepios over the years. Even though it may be difficult after two years of the pandemic, let us look forward to the future together with optimism.

Best regards  
Dr Bernard große Broermann

Dr Bernard große Broermann