

2018 Academic Ceremony Speech

Discurso del Acto Académico 2018

Good afternoon, authorities present at this event, colleagues, family and friends.

As it often happens at this time of the year, there is a natural trend to stop, look back and think of what has been done and what has remained pending. This moment represents only one point in the development of the continuum of our Society, which has a past and a future in which each Board of Directors completes projects that were started by the previous boards and begins others which will be concluded by the following directors.

I would first like to thank the entire health team (physicians, technicians and nurses) who collaborated tirelessly and efficiently, either on-site or online, in the different areas throughout the year. I express my gratitude to the Councils for their determination to continue with the high and recognized academic and scientific standards of our Society.

Among the milestones achieved this year, I will first mention the approval of the new Statute of the Society at the Extraordinary General Assembly held on May 8, a task that required two years of work. This will simplify the chore of modifying regulations as the Society generates new structures or changes some of those existing, adapting to the new dynamics acquired in recent times. Of importance, besides the academic and scientific aims of the Society, we have added an item to the "Aims and purposes" section "To promote the hierarchization of medical practice in all its aspects (economic, ethical and work-related, etc.)", a postponed desire of our associates.

Two new councils have been created: the Council on Cardio-Oncology and the Council on Cardiometabolic Disorders, both made up of multidisciplinary teams, understanding that this is the best way to approach those aspects of the specialty, and not exclusively from the cardiovascular point of view. The Scientific Councils are the mainstay of our Society and they have developed a very intense activity this year through conferences, clinical seminars and on-site and online courses, among other activities. Congratulations to all their members for the work done and the commitment shown throughout the year.

The paradigm shift in the regional districts constitutes another milestone: the historical scheme of only one regional conference per year was changed to eight regional conferences throughout the year, which were successfully held in the cities of Bahía Blanca, Catamarca, Formosa, Adrogué, Mendoza, Córdoba, Bari-

loche and Salta, with more than 3,000 participants, including doctors, technicians and nurses. The rule for each conference was to include topics such as the 25 by 25 Target, and Woman and Heart, and it also incorporated the possibility of presenting scientific works.

Several topics were included in order to encourage the participation in these academic activities: "How to make a power point presentation", "How to write a scientific abstract", "How to write an article for publication", and even "Introduction to oratory". The Research Area also set up a help desk where participants could consult common methodological doubts when starting an investigation. This action turned regional cardiologists as protagonists of the Conferences with excellent presentations. Five online clinical seminars were also organized among the districts with excellent attendance and simultaneous participation of members of the distant districts as speakers, commentators and chairpersons. Seven webinars on the most important topics in cardiology were streamed from our headquarters nationwide, drawing great interest and acceptance among colleagues in the districts. The Biannual Cardiology Course (agreement with the UBA) was transmitted via Webex to the inland residency programs for 85 students in different provinces.

There were 145 participants from the Argentine provinces in the scientific program of the Argentine Congress of Cardiology. Our congratulations to Dr. Claudio Majul and his team for their excellent job in the District Area.

In the international area, the relationship continued with the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the European Society of Cardiology, the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging, the World Heart Federation, the Inter-American Society and the South American Society of Cardiology, holding joint round tables in our Congress and in those of the different societies. We established contact with the Pan African Society and the Asian Pacific Society with a view to signing collaboration agreements and future joint round tables.

On May 3, the International Leadership Workshop was held by teleconference on the initiative of Dr. Daniel Piñeiro with the participation of Dr. William Zoghbi.

We have signed an agreement with Medscape which allows the SAC to have a website within the Medscape in Spanish site with bibliographic comments, reviews

and opinion articles coordinated by Dr. Jorge Thierer.

The Continuous Education Center continued with the 16 on-site and online courses which represent a much requested updating tool not only in our country but also throughout Latin America, and to this end we signed an agreement with the South American Society for distributing the courses in the region. The PROSAC program kept on with the edition of the high scientific quality volumes focused on the continuous education of cardiologists.

The WikiCardio area, a reliable information source for patients on the web, remained with an average of 50,000 visitors per month, led by Mexico. This is the result of the excellent work performed by the team led by Dr. Mariana Corneli.

After two years of work, the SAC Young Community completed an ambitious project, the development of the SAC Mobile application for mobile devices, which gives access to risk scores, anthropometric data, hemodynamic calculations, consensus statements and many other applications that are constantly being included. More than 6,000 downloads were completed since it was launched at the congress in October and it was trending topic of the download sites during those days. It is important to mention that this mobile application was financed entirely by the SAC.

One year ago, I made a question that is frequently heard: What does the SAC give me? Everything I have

previously said is what the SAC offers its members through all its representatives, who give their best unselfishly and with deep dedication to service.

I would like to express my gratitude and acknowledgment to the permanent staff of the Society, the submerged part of the iceberg, for their silent work that has allowed the achievement of the aforementioned projects. I would also like to thank the pharmaceutical industry, the medical technology industry and the food industry for their support in the implementation of many of the activities we have carried out.

Finally, my appreciation to the entire Board of Directors and, in particular, to the members of the Executive Board with whom we have shared many hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ana Salvati, our second female President after Liliana Grinfeld, will be a deluxe President next year. Many thanks to Pablo Stutzbach and Mariano Falconi, who managed the SAC's patrimony as their own, and to our new secretary, Sergio Baratta.

Other very special thanks to my friend Claudio Higa and to Marina Joseph, our Secretary, for their unconditional support throughout the year. And finally, to Alcira, for all the times I have been absent.

Thank you all very much.

Ricardo Alberto Migliore

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology