

## The Districts of the Argentine Society of Cardiology

After the end of the XXII Regional Districts National Conference, which took place in the city of Neuquén, some reflections have arisen due to the results of the event, in agreement with those obtained in the previous years.

In fact, the success of the Comahue Conference fulfilled and exceeded the expectations: there was a great participation of physicians, nurses, medical students, technicians, nursing students and people from the community attending the campaign for control of risk factors and basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation. In addition, a considerable number of people attended the sessions; the level of the presentations made by the guests and by the members of the District was very high and an important number of scientific papers were presented.

The two subjects of this Conference were cardiovascular prevention and management of acute myocardial infarction within the first hours, under the premise of regionalization of care of myocardial infarction. All the activities focused on those subjects; however, the scientific content was wide and broad, worthy of the second most important scientific event of our Society.

For the first time, information and education activities for the community took place in three simultaneous and distant places (the city of Neuquén, Cipolletti and Rincón del Sauce) in the provinces of Neuquén and Río Negro. Our Fundación Cardiológica was in charge of these activities with the participation of physicians and medical students from the region.

Finally, a large crowd of people attended the session dedicated to the concept of regionalization for the best initial treatment of myocardial infarction and local data about the reality of myocardial infarction and its treatment were presented. An interesting discussion was generated between the audience and the health care authorities of Neuquén, Río Negro and the city of Buenos Aires. Probably, this might constitute the kickoff of a local program of regionalization for a better management of the resources for the treatment of myocardial infarction. In this way, this Conference might fulfill the additional objective of sowing something useful for the community.

The Head Office of the Argentine Society of Cardiology has proven experience in the organization of this type of events; yet, the local participation in the organization and production of the scientific contents for the Regional Districts Conference has played a key role in the success of the event.

These objective data are additional to the results obtained in the past Conferences (in San Luis and Tucumán, among other cities) also attended by large

audiences: the common denominator of the local people was to obtain scientific quality regardless of being members of the SAC or other scientific societies.

This allows drawing some conclusions and learning some lessons for the design of society policies:

- The Regional Districts Conferences have consolidated as the second important scientific event of our Society.
- This success is based on the quality of the organization and the scientific level because the SAC's Districts and Head Office worked together.
- The audience looks for the quality of the scientific contents and is independent of political considerations or association affiliations.

We should then go on working on these basic conclusions from the SAC's Districts and the corresponding areas of the Head Office to improve the growth of this activity and of other eventual events.

In addition, all the facts mentioned before have led us make an analysis of our Regional Districts, the reason of the title of this letter.

The title per se has a verbal trap, as it assumes that the Argentine Society of Cardiology has Districts that are different from it. In fact, the Districts together with the SAC's Head Office constitute the Argentine Society of Cardiology. This is not just a play on words but an essential concept, indicating that the mission of the Argentine Society of Cardiology is the development of cardiology nationwide and is present in all the country through its Districts.

In the same sense, the Districts are not the interior of the country but part of the SAC. For this reason, SAC's Head Office has changed the anachronistic name of Interior Area to District Area, which is more appropriate. The old concept would imply considering the SAC's Central Office as a scientific society outside instead of inside or in the Interior of the country. Again, this is not a funny and empty play on words for personal grandstanding; on the contrary, it entails the essence of our Society in the future years. The mission of the SAC will be the development and hierarchization of our specialty nationwide for the benefit of our patients, working in each of the regions, which undoubtedly take part of its social body.

However, this implies not only rights but also responsibilities. The members of the Regional Districts must fulfill their obligations with the SAC and increase their participation for the development of the corresponding district in order to achieve the mission of our society. In turn, this implies the growth of scientific professional projects and of the activities towards the respective communities, based on providing services

to the cardiologists of the region regardless of being members of the SAC or of other scientific society. The independent development of resources, projects for the organization of local and regional activities with their potential funding will be necessary to achieve these goals, working together with the corresponding structures of the SAC's Head Office. Obviously, the corresponding authorities of our Districts play a key role to fulfill these objectives.

The Argentine Society of Cardiology will be the result of the development achieved by its members distributed in the Regional Districts and Head Office. Our Society will be stronger and more booming if our Districts act accordingly. In this sense, the success obtained by

our Districts Conferences constitutes an encouraging example.

However, be careful, as the opposite is also true and might well happen! Our Society will not grow if we do not succeed in improving the development and the importance of our Districts, which depend on the irreplaceable and exclusive work of their members.

Personally speaking, the power of the Regional Districts undoubtedly ensures the worthy accomplishment of the mission of the Argentine Society of Cardiology in the future.

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