



## Aportes para la Historia de la Cardiología Argentina

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Writing a bibliographic review about a history book is a special challenge. Mainly, when the person writing has not lived that history and remained oblivious to the controversies of that time. These two conditions give immunity and freedom in opinions, but at the same time, they could highlight the ignorance of actors and facts, not taken into account in this report.

In *Aportes para la Historia de la Cardiología Argentina*, J.Milei, F.Pégola et al. collect important documentary material to know the most recent history. This text includes the period 1969-2000, with special emphasis in the history of the Argentine Society of Cardiology. After the necessary account of the beginning of the Society between 1935 and 1937 (Chapter I), the authors continue the description from 1969, given the history of the previous period had been announced through A.Demartini's work published in 1980.

The enumeration of the Congresses organized by the Argentine Society of Cardiology (Chapter V) and the Inter-American Congress of 1952, serves as preamble for the presentation of 1974 World Congress (Chapter IV), carried out in a convulsed environment under the threat of the Argentinian guerrilla movement (page 40). In chapter III the details of the purchase of the current headquarters in Azcuena Street, made in 1974 with the funds obtained from the World Congress, the special contribution of some beneficent partners and the sale of the headquarters in Parana Street acquired in 1967, are described. The evolution of the Argentine Journal of Cardiology is not absent in this account (Chapter VI), where the efforts to re-enter the journal to the Index Medicus, after being excluded from it in 1961, "when unfortunately, due to political and economic reasons the continuity of the issues was interrupted for several months" (sic) (page 57), are stressed. Later, the authors also remember the creation of the Scientific Boards from 1980 and of the different Districts (from 1981) of the Argentine Society of Cardiology (Chapter VIII). The mention of the Teaching Area and the Scientific

Research Committee (current Area of Research) was, involuntarily omitted by the authors. A summary of the history of the great services of cardiology in Buenos Aires and of a few from the interior complements this part of the Society history (Chapter VII). The contribution of the different services of cardiology and, specially, the creation of the first coronary units is documented by their main mentors and actors. The creation of the Argentine Cardiology Foundation in 1976, the medical care fund CARDIOMET in 1982 and the Argentine Cardiology Association is described in chapter IX. The history of the Library of the Society starts in 1979, year of its creation (Chapter X). In this chapter, the authors highlight, among other things, the collection of historical books that includes works of the XVII and XIX century. This volume ends with a summary of consensus and rules created by the different boards and committees (Chapter XVII), as well as the enumeration of the awards (Chapter XI) and the presidents that led the Argentine Society of Cardiology in that period (Chapter XII).

As a result of the comments and accounts obtained from the major figures of the history, the authors provide a vivid documentary vision from the perspective of their actors.

Though the formality of a bibliographic review requires including a synthesis of the contents, prudence could exclude expressing feelings or a subjective opinion of the text. However, seeing the photos and reading the statements and comments of the participants of the stories written in this volume generate the feeling of being living again with them the wishes and impulses that motivated them in that period and the emotion of being contributing to the prestige of the Argentine medicine.

This book by Milei, Pégola et al. not only is a document of the cardiology related to the Argentine Society of Cardiology, but also is a tribute to the institutions and participants that build up this story.