

The table is served

The President's letter that we are used to seeing in every issue of the RAC represents the opinion of one member of the SAC. It is natural to interpret that in a society of members is one more opinion, and that is true, but we must understand that given its hierarchical function it should express the guiding ideas of our Society.

The president's opinion emerges from his personal principles, but also from conversations with the Board, the Executive Committee and with the different areas and colleagues. Beyond the nuances of expression, it should summarize and reach a consensus on the majority opinion in the topics that are proposed.

The letter is not a legal document, but an instrument of diffusion that allows all the members of the SAC and all the cardiologists in the country to know our thinking, objectives and projects.

In the last President's letter 2011, published as a newsletter, one of the questions that in my opinion is nuclear, is discussed: Why to be member of the SAC?

Our former president extensively and clearly explains his arguments, which I share fully. He emphasizes that the sociable nature of human being leads him to gather in all the activities and those of scientific nature are not an exception.

This association allows us to share, grow and defend.

Besides this argument, linked with our human condition, there are elements that from a pragmatic point of view make necessary our link with scientific societies.

Scientific societies have a role not performed by other entities. As it was commented in my previous letter, the existence and labour of the SAC mainly contributed to give identity to the speciality in our country. Without the contribution of the SAC both development and prioritization of our specialty would have been delayed.

I consider that physicians, in this case cardiologists that have relation with a scientific society as the SAC, are different professionals. Maybe due to a personal predisposition, but also the result of a frequent exposure and the consequent leaning that this entails.

To mention some examples, the professional has the possibility to interact with other colleagues, listen

and share experiences, contact with experts, attend courses, have consensus, access to a journal as the RAC, attend one of the most important Congresses of Cardiology, participate in the activities performed in each of their Districts, the opportunity to participate in research activities, to plan and organize teaching activities, to give and receive updated information.

There are no doubts and I believe you will agree that the participation in any of these matters enriches us and produces a continuous learning mechanism that allows us to grow professionally. It is real that for the accomplishment of these activities economic resources are required. The availability of these resources can be seen from different approaches. An individual approach, in my opinion selfish: "The table is served, let's enjoy the banquet". But also from a collective vision, in my opinion committed and supportive: "Let's prepare the table, and enjoy the banquet".

To prepare the table is understood as a bilateral task. To those who hold positions, to deal with organizational issues that guarantee the viability of our Society and create the conditions so that the relation of cardiologists with the SAC generates an additional benefit. For each and every one of its members to participate in the activities and collaborate in its maintenance. The contribution of the membership fee is very important, that is a good of the SAC, independently of the fluctuations that may have the contributions of companies that support us.

The tendency of great international cardiologic societies is to establish great differences between what is offered to the member and non-member; for example, the free access to the Journal, significant discounts on registrations for courses and Congresses, etc. This path, already started by our Society, would be the one to be emphasized in the future.

Far from ethical considerations, and limiting ourselves to practical aspects, we should understand that the individualistic vision is short-term, so if there are no goods, the banquet will finish.

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