Science, Art and Imaging

With the advances in technology, imaging has earned a leading role and has become the central topic in numerous works today. In line with it, the Revista Argentina de Cardiología dedicates this issue to cardiovascular imaging.

This issue begins with an image of a masterly illustration of Bartolomé Murillo, a Sevillian painter in whom the influence of Caravaggio was undeniable, and whose incidental finding in a doctor's office in Buenos Aires included semiotechnique and a skillful questioning.

It is interesting how with these data an expert can confirm who the author was, despite the painting is almost 400 years old.

No image has content if its history is unknown; the more evidence you can collect, the more chances you have of identifying it.

As when one has seen several Caravaggio paintings, the same happens with cardiac images: "styles" are repeated, allowing different "patterns" to be recognized. The medical record, a hypothetical-deductive reasoning and comparison are the core of imaging interpretation, particularly of cardiovascular imaging.

Dr. Jorge Trainini's bright idea of embellishing the Journal with the history of a painter –who, as an exception in this issue, is not a contemporary Argentine painter– allows us to enjoy some works of art and to confirm that, while art and science seem to be two very different worlds, they intertwine and relate to each other in several occasions.

Science in isolation, when it depends on the cold technology, is mechanistic and even reductionist; art allows us to imagine other scenarios, enter the world of passions, without which life would be just a sad occurrence.

Art pursues beauty, conveys emotion and feelings; science, in search of knowledge, tries to be an objective and accurate description of reality.

It must be admitted that artistic sensitivity is necessary in order to perform and interpret the new techniques in cardiology, because what is done and clarified in search of truth has an outstanding beauty.

The reader will find a topical opinion article, in which Dr. Miguel Ángel García Fernández, Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, analyzes whether we are on the right track in the world of cardiac imaging.

Several original works are presented, which in turn are editorialized by expert specialists on the topic in question, analyzing in detail the contributions and limitations of each work.

Dr. Sergio Baratta et al evaluate whether strain and serological markers are useful for early demonstration of deleterious effects of chemotherapy, and Dr. Juan Carlos Plana, from the Cleveland Clinic, analyzes the work in the context of the current knowledge on the topic.

Dr. Norberto Allende et al study the CHA_2DS_2-VASc score as predictor of atrial thrombus in patients with atrial fibrillation in planned cardioversion, and Professor Paolo Colonna, one of the authors of the European Society of Cardiology guidelines for the management of atrial fibrillation, editorializes the work.

Dr. Ema N. Aramayo Gerónimo et al. analyze the relationship between myocardial viability patterns, myocardial flow and coronary anatomy using multislice CT scan in patients with left ventricular dysfunction, and one of the foremost experts in this field, Dr. Marcelo Di Carli, discusses its content.

Dr. Juan Pablo Ochoa et al assess the spinothalamic tract using MRI tractography in patients with X syndrome, and one of the most knowledgeable specialists on this condition, our well-known Professor Carlos Kaski, discusses the study. A study of basic cardiology by Dr. Luciana Wilensky et al, assess the effects of strenuous exercise on mice´s heart.

And the last one is "Diagnostic Accuracy of the Carotid Intima-Media Thickness for the Detection of Coronary Atherosclerosis", by Dr. Daniel A. Siniawski et al. In his analysis of the five works nominated for the 2012 Dr. Pedro Cossio Foundation Award, Professor Jorge Lerman discusses this paper –awarded first prize– in detail.

In an excellent review article, Dr. Harry Acquatella et al, from Venezuela, point out the value of imaging techniques in the diagnosis and prognosis of Chagas disease.

In the controversy, Dr. Natalio Gastadello, from Buenos Aires, and Dr. José Banchs, from the Anderson Clinic in Houston, engage in an intense debate in which both agonist and antagonist respectively evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of ejection fraction and the longitudinal deformation method for the longitudinal follow-up of patients treated with antineoplastic agents.

In the traditional President's letter, Dr. Jorge Belardi tells us about the progress made to achieve the goal the Argentine Society of Cardiology has postulated in its Vision, Mission and Objectives.

The new sections include information about atrial fibrillation for patients, a nursing video on insertion and care of central catheters, self-assessment continuous medical education from the reading of three works and a colloquial summary of eight outstand-

ing articles, recently published in major international journals.

In the not-to-be-missed RAC Director's letter, Dr. Hernán Doval invites us to reflect upon the need for accurate identification of patients in whom imaging studies will add diagnostic and/or prognostic information.

Lastly, a brief report, two case reports, and images in cardiology show the reader the pathology which because of its rarity and interest is worth sharing.

This issue of the Journal confirms that the world of imaging is fascinating, with a promising present and an incalculable future; it should, however, be used with reason and caution, with knowledge but without dependency, which is the only way towards a harmonic and sustainable growth. But there is still a debt we need to solve: both art and new techniques should be accessible to everyone.

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