

Opening Speech of the Argentine Congress of Cardiology

Discurso de apertura del Congreso Argentino de Cardiología

The 41st Argentine Congress of Cardiology will be marked by “**Encounter and Dialogue**”, since our Congress represents the guiding principle of our Society.

We will have the opportunity to discuss all the topics of interest in today's medicine and Cardiology, such as whether or not our decisions are supported by evidence-based medicine or by its interpretation. Different societies use the same evidence but inform and advise very differently; thus, simply deciding how much should blood pressure be lowered remains a topic of much debate.

We will also deal with situations relevant to medical practice in an adverse social reality, and **topics such as violence in hospitals and physician fees will also be deeply analyzed**. We will also discuss why **Twitter, Facebook and smartphones are considered the new scientific and therapeutic tools**.

The **Institutional Symposiums** are one of the news in this Congress, in which some of the most important cardiology institutions in Argentina will share their experiences and results.

In keeping with the spirit of this Congress, there will be six “**Dialogue with Experts**” round tables, where we will have the opportunity to learn the opinions of prestigious experts on the most relevant topics in cardiology.

As in previous congresses, the **American College of Cardiology** and the **European Society of Cardiology** will take part in shared sessions, discussing the most outstanding topics of 2015.

There will be joint sessions with the **Sister Societies in Latin America**, with whom our ties go beyond language. It should be noted that our Congress enjoys the largest attendance in the Spanish-speaking world.

Furthermore, a new edition of the **Argentine Congress of Pediatric Cardiology** will take place, with distinguished and prominent international guests.

The **Argentine Cardiology Foundation** will have a special participation in round tables and activities for the community.

The **Opening Conference** will be in charge of **Dr. Valentín Fuster**, who will speak about “**Heart and Brain**” as a tribute to **Dr. Liliana Grinfeld**.

I would particularly like to thank the **Scientific Committee** and Staff of the **Argentine Society of Cardiology** for their constant and intelligent work throughout the year, so that the most important cardiology scientific event of Argentina and of the whole region can be successfully held.

many years in the *Argentine Journal of Cardiology*, Clinical research, District Areas, Councils, Recertification, Health policies and Consensuses and International SAC, the following new advances will be presented in this Congress:

1. **SAC Electronic Medical Record**, a project that started two years ago and is now a reality.
2. **WikiCardio**, reliable information, **SAC's educational tool for patients**, which will be launched on December 3 but can be accessed today at the SAC booth.
3. **PROSAC** (Program for Continuing Education in Cardiology) has been digitized and will be available in electronic format next year.
4. This year, **SAC Young Community** has worked in workshops on doctor-patient relationship, on how to break bad news, and how to avoid burn-out and practice medicine without depression or depersonalization. SAC Young Community is already working on a joint round table with the young community of the European Society of Cardiology, to be held in **Rome in 2016**.
5. The **Area Committee** has worked very hard throughout the year with SAC's Teaching area and Staff to redesign CEP (Center for Continuing Education) and the teaching courses for next year.
6. We have created **SAC Economy**, whose aim is to anticipate a crisis and be more efficient in all SAC's processes.
7. We are about to launch SAC's website login, so that our members have unlimited access to all SAC-generated contents.
8. We are working on deep technological changes and building remodeling of SAC. We have renewed the Auditorium and all the classrooms, created three new meeting rooms, and we are investing a lot in technology to improve our courses and to reach the entire country through Virtual SAC and our website.

In short, our Society today is alive, full of energy; our main issue is not financial but the creation of new meeting places to receive all the enthusiastic physicians who come to work with us in the development of all our projects.

Please allow me a few comments on today's Argentine Society of Cardiology.

In 2013, SAC's goal was to reduce mortality rate by 25% in 2025, and this is not an advertising slogan, it is a commitment.

To achieve this goal, it is necessary to work together with other Scientific Societies.

Two years ago, we started developing national registries together with the Argentine Federation of Car-

WHAT'S NEW AT THE SAC?

In addition to the steady work we have been doing for

diology. The first one was the Registry of Myocardial Infarction, whose first results will be presented in this Congress.

This year, continuing with our policy, we have started the **RENATA 2** registry on hypertension, and have developed the protocol to start the **OFFICE ICAR** registry on heart failure next year.

In three years, we will have reliable national figures that will be the basis for the development of policies to achieve our goal.

Cardiovascular diseases do not occur in adulthood: they start much earlier. For that reason, we have decided to sign an agreement with the **Argentine Society of Pediatrics** to develop a consensus on cardiovascular prevention in adolescents. The first advances of this important consensus will be shared on Saturday.

The First Meeting between **Cardiology and Clinical Medicine** will be held during this Congress, undertaking common topics with the help of others' opinions and knowledge.

Together with the **Argentine Federation of Cardiology (FAC)** and the **Argentine College of Interventional Cardiologists (CACI)**, we are working on the **Stent for Life** program, which could be translated as **Time is Life**. Through this program, and with the counseling of the European Society of Cardiology, the Registry of Myocardial Infarction will be complemented with a program by sectors in order to improve the resources and times of reperfusion.

In short, we are keeping our word and commitment to work together with other Scientific Societies in developing national consensus and registries, which will be the basis for common policies to reduce cardiovascular mortality in Argentina.

Our goal to reduce mortality rate is ambitious, and working with other Scientific Societies is not enough to achieve it. We need resources; it is impossible to develop such complex registries without the help of the National Ministry of Health.

In January, we started the Registry of Myocardial Infarction with the help of the Dr. Pedro Cossio Foundation, and we are looking forward to the resources provided by the Ministry of Health for its completion, so that we can have reliable statistics as the starting point to more appropriate cardiovascular prevention policies.

"The death of a person is a tragedy; the death of millions is a statistic."

As physicians, it is our responsibility to treat our patients, but as a Scientific Society, it is our duty and commitment to work with other Societies and the National Public Health authorities to achieve our goal of knowing the statistics in order to reduce cardiovascular mortality in Argentina.

In recent months, I have been reflecting upon Argentine society and the Argentine Society of Cardiology.

Here I would like again to underline Dr. Bertolasi's thought, who expressed:

"I am deeply affected to perceive despair and pessimism in the face of a disoriented country and a mediocre ruling class. A country without long-term projects.

Understanding that we are also the ruling class of our environment, that we can be powerful and influential if we act as a clever community and plan ahead, provides us with a framework for improvement."

That is why we have decided that this year the Closing Conference of our Congress will be given by Dr. Hernán Doval. He will deal with the topic: "It is the society that determines the number of cardiovascular patients it wants to have. What is our responsibility? What can we do?"

The Argentine society and the Scientific Societies are formed by the same people; however, it is interesting to highlight some of the values with which we, doctors, are trained:

With the **truth**, since lies are unthinkable and unacceptable.

With **self-criticism**, since through symposia at our hospitals, we learn from our own mistakes and avoid committing them again.

With **dialogue with our colleagues**, sharing our knowledge in every doctor's round for better patient care.

With **consensuses**, which provide us with the guidelines on how to best apply our knowledge.

With **intellectual honesty**, governing our actions.

With **continuing education**, which is part of our DNA.

In **honor**. At the Argentine Society of Cardiology, all the physicians work *ad honorem*. It does not mean we work for free, it means we are honored to participate in a Society and fulfill our dream as medical students: to care for and cure patients. So simple and yet so significant.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Being the President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology is a source of pride and a great responsibility; it is feeling gratitude to all the SAC active staff and Board members who joined me this year in making—at times very difficult—decisions; it is also **respect** for all those who preceded me.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the pharmaceutical industry, medical equipment, the Dr. Pedro Cossio Foundation, and medical institutions, for their invaluable contributions to this Congress and, essentially, for joining us in all our projects so that the Argentine Society of Cardiology can fulfill its commitment with the Argentine society to train and educate better physicians throughout our beloved country.

That is all. Thank you very much.

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President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology