

The Important and the Urgent

Lo importante y lo urgente

My dear members,

In this opportunity, I would like to tell you about the ending of my administration as President of our dear SAC.

The year started with the double challenge of making progress in the consolidation of our economy as well as of trying to deal with some of the mid- and long-term initiatives..

In the first case, the effort of all the members throughout the past years makes it possible to affirm that in not more than 3 years the Society will be sorted out, more solid and with greater capability of investing in more actions to continue its mission of working for health, teaching and cooperating in improving the performance of cardiovascular health care professionals in Argentina. The sacrifice we asked of you is not small, but thanks to your generous support today we can look at the future with great optimism. For that reason, I am deeply convinced that our congresses, educational programs, clinical seminars and all the activity developed by the SAC, are not the merit of a group of leaders, but belong to us all, and, therefore, we all have to feel more than proud of the task accomplished.

Regarding the future, we have made an intense work to provide online education and, again, we must emphasize the redoubled effort made by all the Councils, Teaching Committee and Areas of the SAC to make progress in this objective. This will finally make our education reach all our members across the country and not only those capable of attending on-site courses. In the same line, we also need to nourish our decisions and initiatives with the contributions of our members nationwide; therefore, since the past 2 years, members of our districts have a more active participation, thanks to the web, both in the Board of Directors and the Scientific Committees as well as in offering and sharing their knowledge within the different events of the Society. Members of the Districts have already been included in the Board of Directors of the Scientific Councils, and we hope to include more members in the future.

In the same sense, a new chapter has begun in the history of our Society this year. The Argentine Society of Cardiology will extend its educational trajectory and capacity beyond the borders of our country. We have started working with most of the Latin American Societies of Cardiology to share our educational capabilities and generate a progressively open exchange in

the region in order to take advantage of and continue developing the enormous contents we generate, reaching colleagues from all the brother nations.

Similarly, we have learned that our congress, the largest Spanish-speaking congress in the world, is already a regional congress. This year, more than five-hundred colleagues from Latin America have attended our congress, and in our contact with the Presidents of their Societies, they have told us the increasing interest they have in attending and participating in the Argentine Congress of Cardiology. In view of this, and aware of the tremendous responsibility this implies, we have initiated several actions. Firstly, over the past 2 years, the Scientific Committees have started including regional colleagues in the programs, in different functions and not necessarily in joint sessions with other Societies. We have signed agreements with the Uruguayan Society of Cardiology and with the Bolivian Society of Cardiology to facilitate the access of their members to our congress. WikiCardio, our website of reliable information for patients, is being shared with over ten Latin American Societies, and we shall go on making progress with them so that this initiative reaches more patients. Likewise, the Editorial Board will include colleagues from the region so that their contributions can enrich this tool for the patients.

Finally, we have developed an arduous task of approach with the Argentine Federation of Cardiology, convinced of the need of growing toward a mature and cooperative relationship. I want to emphasize the importance of counting with Presidents as Dr. Gustavo Cerezo firstly and Dr. Narcisa Gutiérrez during my administration. It has been a real privilege to work with them throughout these years, and as a result of this task we have signed the first joint work agreement for the management with government agencies. We hope this will be only the first of many agreements to face the challenges of the future, with mutual cooperation and support between both Societies.

I would like to conclude this letter appreciating everyone's efforts, but very especially the efforts of the SAC's stable staff and of my partners of the Board of Directors, who have given their best for the progress and growth of our beloved Society.

I send you a big hug and my best wishes for 2017.

Prof. Dr. Daniel Berrocal MTSAC, FASE

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology