

Sense of Belonging, Identification and Liquidity

Sentido de pertenencia, identificación y liquidez

“Men love their country, not because it is the greatest, the richest or the most advanced, but because it is their own.”

What does belonging to the Argentine Society of Cardiology mean, and how important is it?

Are the answers received at the present time the same as those given 20 years ago?

Certainly not. For better or for worse, we must admit that the commitment is not the same. It is different, neither better nor worse. Yet, this appreciation does not mean resignation, but a search for an explanation.

As identification is an important social skill that strengthens self-esteem, it is likely that the identity crisis we are dealing with is related with a collective imaginary that places the Society far from personal values and interests. In another sense, the Society is perceived as a selected elite difficult to access.

The sense of belonging is linked to the satisfaction of the colleague who feels as an integral part of our Society and recognizes the rest of the professionals as peers. Can we admit this statement as part of the problem? Are we all empowered in some way in decisions, opinions, relationships and projects within the Society?

When I know a project or a proposal in depth and it is possible to distinguish it from others, then the possibility of identifying with it, assuming it, defending it and even contributing to its growth is generated.

Likewise, the Society is in the midst of a strong polarization between the individual scientist with his or her genuine ambitions and the institutions which, by our own merit or omission, aspire to take the place of the Society, in our case pressured to compete with each other with scarce resources.

As Bauman stated, “Our society has made of disaffection a compulsory part of vital occupations”. And as father of “liquid” modernity, he described the dominant model as the “end of the era of mutual commitment”.

In this process of liquidity, of transient offer, tem-

porary agreements and fear of losing freedom, we find ourselves without a feeling of belonging, not very proud of belonging to or being part of, of being a member of the SAC.

Do most of our members know what the Society is working on? Do they know that, thanks to its commitment, they can attend the largest Congress of Cardiology of Spanish speaking countries? Do they know PROSAC, the greatest cardiology update program? Are they aware of the federalization of continuous medical education with 18 online cardiology courses? Have they entered WikiCardio, the best cardiology website for the community? Are they proud of our excellent *Argentine Journal of Cardiology*? Thus we could continue, and it would take us time to highlight the electronic medical record, our research studies, the mobile application that we will launch in the near future, the area of women, etc.

It is us, the leaders of the last generations, who have incorporated mechanisms of communication with our fellow colleagues that have proved to be insufficient to stimulate the sense of belonging.

We have to understand that the activity of the SAC is mainly directed to its members, but it is also directed to the entire society, to the community through the Argentine Foundation of Cardiology, and to public health and management with our work towards governmental policies.

I am concerned about what I have written. I am addressing you to awaken a thought, an interest, to generate allegiance.

And finally, I am addressing all of you, who have been and are a lot, to thank you on behalf of the Argentine Society of Cardiology for all the work, energy and commitment you had and still have. Thanks to you, the SAC stands where it is, and has projects, and the doors are open, with future. We are proud of being members of the SAC.

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