

Opening Speech of the 2017 SAC Academic Ceremony

Discurso del Acto Académico 2017

Good afternoon, authorities present, Board of Directors members, friends, and family,

I have ambiguous feelings at the end of this term of office. On the one hand, work has been intense and at times, even tiring, much more than I imagined; this year, my work has been superlative. Therefore, it would seem reasonable to finish this mandate.

However, when I review what we had programmed, what we had planned and what we were able to achieve, I realize that several projects and plans were fulfilled, but some were not.

So I ask myself: What went wrong? What should I have done? Ultimately, I am not saying it is lucky; that's how it is set up, and that's good, as what we were not able to achieve so far, if it was good, will be surely achieved by the coming authorities, Dr. Migliore, Dr. Ana Salvati, and those who will follow. This shows that the Society is alive, that it changes, that it can let some things go at a certain moment just because that was not the right time to do them. Because if projects are interesting, it is certain they will be carried out in the future. This shows that there is continuity; it also shows –and I want to remark it– that what we were able to achieve this year is not our merit but that of the past commissions, who provided the opportunity, kicked off, or prepared the ground for us to do something this year; surely, what we did this year is going to make it possible for future committees to fulfill some of the things that they are now planning.

We are nothing if we do not want to be something.

In fact, what we believe is that everyone has a role in the Society, everyone could, at some point in time, fulfill some of their projects, their dreams.

This Society, which I have known for many, many years, demands its members' presence, and somehow the place exists; we have to look for it, we have to wait for it and think that we have many things to do in a cooperative and societal way.

Therefore, what I want to do in the first place, because these words are not meant to recognize what we have done –we have already talked about it on other occasions–, is to thank those who have done it. And I want to thank, in the first place, all the members of the Argentine Society of Cardiology. I'm talking about physicians, nurses, technicians in cardiology practices, psychologists and biochemists. I think that, in a way, all of them have done a great scientific and

academic job, and I thank them for their work –you should have seen what their Monday through Friday work in the Society was like–; I thank all of them on behalf of this Board of Directors.

In our country, what we have tried to do is to nationalize the presence of the Argentine Society of Cardiology through the Regional Districts. What do I mean by that? That every project that is proposed is in some way transferred to all Regional Districts. Therefore, every District or every person from the interior of the country could be involved in those programs or projects. This year we can almost confirm that there are 16 online courses organized by the Center of Continuing Education, with hard, professional and efficient work that today allows us to say that there is a mechanism of federalized education, reaching every member of the Argentine Society of Cardiology and even those colleagues who are not members and in some cases live outside the country. Extensive continuing medical education is not only a term but it also provides a source of genuine economic income for the Argentine Society of Cardiology, by no means negligible these days.

Considering the distance with our members and in keeping with technology and the adherence to a more ecological world, PROSAC and the Argentine Journal of Cardiology have opted for their either partial or total presence online. We endorse this option, and are consuming less paper and have less problems regarding printing and distribution.

We have been promoting the 25 by 25 Program of the *World Health Organization* and the *World Heart Federation*, which projects a 25% reduction in cardiovascular premature deaths by 2025. To this end, it was necessary to organize a working group, write about the processes and even an excellent dossier, which was distributed among participants of the Argentine Congress of Cardiology. It has been a year of internal organization, and maybe next year we can project it to the Districts in order to nationalize the 25 by 25 Program.

It was necessary for the Argentine Society of Cardiology to get involved in quality of care, and this was accomplished this year; results will surely be out next year. We have set up a working group whose initial objective is to standardize an imaging and cath lab.

The Women's Group relaunch, which was successfully introduced at the Argentine Congress of Cardiology together with the *American Heart Association*

and the *Argentine Cardiological Foundation*, has been very important because that group has had a transversal presence in almost all the Regional Districts, turning it into an example of work.

Together with SAC Young Community, we are developing the SAC Mobile application, to provide colleagues with rapid access to Scores, Recommendations, and Consensuses –all of them related to our activity– from any mobile phone. This project is being materialized in the next few days, so that SAC Mobile will surely be available for all our members next year.

WikiCardio is online and growing, with more than 47,000 visits per month. We have a team of physicians and non-physicians, journalists, graphic designers, and computer system assistants working on an ongoing basis, and that is also thanks to Google support and the financial contribution of the pharmaceutical industry.

With the idea of expanding the Argentine Society of Cardiology so that more members can have a place to work, we have created the Council of Vascular Medicine, which will allow clinical cardiologists, surgeons, interventional cardiologists, or cardiologists specialized in imaging to be part of this council in a transversal approach, an initiative which shows integration in a new subspecialty for our Society.

The three major scientific meetings, the XXVIII Inter-Districts Meeting in Mar del Plata, the 5th Congress of Cardiovascular Imaging in Buenos Aires, and the 43rd Argentine Congress of Cardiology, are the Society's pride. I am deeply grateful to all those physicians and non-physicians in charge, and to the Scientific and the Organizing Committees for their work and dedication, which enabled these congresses' success.

Outside Argentina, we have created an International Area to encompass policies and actions that mutually continue to strengthen relations with the different scientific societies of the world, as the *American College of Cardiology*, the *European Soci-*

ety of Cardiology, the *American Heart Association*, the *World Heart Federation*, the *InterAmerican Society of Cardiology*, and the *South American Society of Cardiology*, making it possible to hold joint sessions in their respective congresses, and that all of them also participate in our own congress.

Among all these activities and their leaders, there is a group of people who are essential to the operation of the Argentine Society of Cardiology, who work with professionalism and dedication. I would like to thank all the SAC active staff, since somehow they make it possible to act in an excellent working environment on a daily basis.

It is essential –and also a pleasure– to work hand in hand and feel supported by the pharmaceutical and the medical technology and food industries, taking the same path of continuing medical education with corporate responsibility. Many thanks to them and their representatives; we share friendship with some and have a great deal of respect for all of them.

I'm leaving until last my personal, affectionate gratitude to the Board of Directors, who has joined me in this task, particularly the board members who were by my side during the last year, sharing many hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In Ricardo (Migliore) we will find a superb president, a scientist, a learned man, a president with a huge commitment to the Society.

I would also like to thank Ernesto Duronto, who has done his best in terms of considering the assets of the SAC as his own, together with Pablo Stutzbach and Claudio Higa.

And a special thank you to my friend Héctor Deschle and to Miss Marina, because they have supported me very closely and unconditionally throughout the year, making everything so much easier.

Thank you, and congratulations to all of you!

Dr. Miguel A. González

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology