

## 2019 Academic Ceremony Speech

### *Discurso del acto académico 2019*

An academic ceremony is a special event. Diplomas, prizes and acknowledgements are awarded. New Society authorities assume the presidency and those who leave it report the work done to their peers.

To preside the Society of Cardiology is unquestionably a great honor and responsibility, but the task is made easier by the tireless work of its members throughout the country, and this is the best assurance of success.

To them, an enormous "thank you" for contributing to the permanent training and updating of their colleagues, for the innovative projects and ideas that led many others to leave their comfort zone to commit in new undertakings. Thank you also for showing that another Argentina is possible, without rifts or bitterness and with the capacity to work shoulder to shoulder with those that think differently, but who add their efforts to achieve greater goals.

This year, some deeds have been outstanding and deserve to be mentioned.

In the first place, the change in the composition of the Board of Directors. The General Inspection of Justice has recently approved the much anticipated change of statute, which had been voted at the Extraordinary General Assembly held on May 2018, incorporating the figure of President-Elect. This is very important, since the continuous growth of SAC both in the academic arena, as in intersocietary and national and international relationships make it extremely necessary to diversify chores and have greater continuity in management.

The other great challenge was to contest the appointment for Director of the Journal. This aim has been fulfilled. The authorities that assume for the 2020-2022 period were elected by a jury of 5 ex-presidents, authors of the regulation, and by the President and Vice President of SAC, after analyzing the proposals received during the three months that the call lasted.

I have no doubt that, as those preceding them, they will continue to make the Journal a source of pride for its scientific quality.

To achieve the position of SAC as a landmark of professional training and updating has certainly guided the activities of many presidents and it has not been different for me.

We put a great deal of effort in offering our members the best available education. The annual Congress surpasses year after year the most ambitious

expectations and receives the praise of national and international attendees. The Imaging Congress has gained a solid position, not only in our country but in all Latin America.

The Districts showed once again all their potential and the 8 Regional seminars were a success. The CONAREC added its contribution to the local work, becoming an active part of each scientific meeting.

New Consensuses were drafted and essential documents for the cardiologist were updated. The Councils continued with their activities and some of them are currently writing books to supplement educational enterprises, which will be launched in electronic format to facilitate their permanent updating.

But it is necessary to go further. To be present where there is a doctor, technician or nurse willing to learn. That is why we left our physical environment with the help of new technologies, and delivered virtual courses, PROSAC, conferences, and webinars to each professional.

The growth and the number of participants is the best indicator of approval from those who contact the online activities.

Clinical Key approached the SAC Library to each user and the association with MEDSCAPE allowed the diffusion in Spanish of the most relevant information in cardiology. Mobile SAC, led by SAC's Young Community, continued growing and enriching its contents.

The Webpage was redesigned with friendlier format. Social networks provided new opportunities and communication was more fluent. They not only transmitted scientific information, but were the setting to show our colleagues' achievements when they gave a conference or presented works in scientific meetings.

We support Research in all its forms, and to meet the new demands, we migrated to the REDcap online platform.

We are now working on the Bioethics Committee qualification by the Central Ethics Committee in Research of Buenos Aires, which we expect to achieve soon, after adapting our management with the new demands in force.

The Cardiologic Foundation was our ally in the work with the community and WIKICARDIO, our trusted information site, continued to gain followers. This development requires a strong support, and after computer auditing detected strengths and weaknesses, a reconversion plan was designed in accordance with our needs.

Conscious of the economic problems faced by our country, we were very careful in the use of resources, and continuing the work that others before me started, we have finally achieved closing the fiscal year without any debt.

I wish to congratulate very specially those who were promoted in their Memberships, because it means an academic achievement to be proud of. This year the number of Full Members has doubled the historical mean and I fervently wish for this growth to continue.

I congratulate the physicians who have completed the biannual course of cardiology and who will soon obtain their specialist degree. Continue being part of SAC, as this will always be a place of meeting and debate that will encourage your progress.

To the Directors of the Areas and Councils and to the District Presidents, thank you for the work you have done. You are the leaders of our Society.

A special mention to my female colleagues, who accepted posts of responsibility during this period and

worked with great professionalism, evidencing once more that it is not a matter of gender but of commitment.

I thank the Pharmaceutical and Medical Technology Industry their permanent contribution to the development of so many activities. Their unconditional support has been essential for the fulfillment of many of our projects.

My acknowledgement to all the staff, who work with great devotion and responsibility, who feel the SAC as their own, and who are a fundamental part of our job.

To the Executive Committee who accompanied me and to the Board of Directors, thank you for all the work, the respect, the support and the commitment. It was an honor to share with you this year.

To the members of our Society who trusted me to guide it: thank you very much.

**Ana Salvati**

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology