

On-site Attendance: The New Challenge. The SAC opens its doors

El nuevo desafío: la presencialidad. SAC a puertas abiertas

Dear colleagues,

We are starting the year with a new challenge: returning to on-site activities, so necessary in some areas. We are excited about this move, but we know that there are many obstacles and uncertainties. We are aware that, to some extent, virtuality is here to stay; this has a strong positive impact as it promotes equality in the possibility of participating (e.g., in courses) while minimizing geographical and travel barriers.

However, the situation is different when we think of events, particularly of our congresses. Therefore, we are returning to on-site attendance. The first example of this will be the hands-on workshops to be held in different parts of the country during the third day of our X Congress of Echocardiography and Cardiovascular Imaging which will be held between July 28 and 30 and will count with renowned foreign guests and joint round tables with the most outstanding international societies.

And in this way back we are working on the development of our 48th Argentine Congress of Cardiology, on-site, tailored to the circumstances and with hybrid participation of foreign guests, according to their possibilities of attending the event. It is still too early to give more details, but I want you to know that the congress will be held from October 20 to 22, and we hope the event will have a strong clinical view and with the participation of you all.

During January and February, the SAC has worked intensively and we have held meetings with the areas, districts and councils to program the activity of the year and to tell you that the doors of the Society are open to return to work in the SAC to the extent possible.

The focus on continuing medical education will continue and, in line with this target, we are launching the promotion of educational offerings, with more courses and updating the material of those that were already available, when necessary. We are also planning activities aimed at family doctors with the necessary information for daily practice in the main cardiology diseases. We are taking advantage of virtuality as a tool in the development of courses, associated with the necessary practice in some topics. In this regard, we are completing the procedures for importing a simulator that will be of great help in the echocardiography course.

In the next few days, we will visit Bahia Blanca to sign an agreement with Universidad Nacional del Sur, for jointly delivering the specialty course in cardiology.

The country districts and the scientific councils have presented an ambitious project of activities for

the entire year, which will cover all the subspecialties; and we at SAC Buenos Aires are scheduling one webinar per month, starting in April.

We will work in partnership with the Argentine Cardiology Foundation (our community-based branch) to reach out to all sectors of our community. The first example was during the first week of March, during the International Women's Day, with outstanding medical activities, participation of international guests and activities for the community.

We keep on strengthening the relationship with other societies and we believe that the time has come to establish alliances, and that our educational material should include aspects of different related specialties which will be of great benefit for daily practice.

The book we are preparing together with the Argentine Society of Nephrology is already underway and we hope it will be published soon.

We have launched the call for the rotation of a postgraduate-year 4 resident in a hospital in New York according to the subspecialty chosen, with a very good response from the candidates. This rotation will be supported by the SAC and the New York Chapter of the ACC.

Within the framework of the ACC Congress we have scheduled bilateral meetings with the ACC, ESC, AHA, WHF, SIAC, SSC, among others, to discuss joint activities during the year.

Finally, we have created the Statistics and Metrics area of the SAC, which is now a fact and will allow us to evaluate and correct the processes.

We have called an Extraordinary General Assembly to be held on March 17 to approve the restructuring of the regulations, a pending matter that was delayed due to the pandemic. In the same way, and with a focus on education, we will take advantage of the opportunity to further expand what is already included in the statute about the ability of the SAC to perform teaching activities.

The Research Area has multiplied its projects and has involved other scientific societies and sister societies from abroad.

It is very exciting to watch the SAC being active and dynamic. The pandemic did not dampen our drive. We keep on growing to fulfill the vision of those who preceded us. The doors are opened to participation and suggestions. You are SAC.

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