

Continuing Medical Education as Mainstay for Development

La educación médica continua como eje del desarrollo

As physicians, we walk through successive stages during our training. The first stage is undergraduate education at the university, which provides us with the necessary tools to begin our journey to become professionals. With the logical enthusiasm and the medical degree, we begin the next stage: training as specialists in which we enhance and expand our knowledge in the area we choose, which in our case is cardiology. Thereafter, there is a long and wide road ahead of us that we will have to travel for the rest of our professional life. This path of continuous training and updating has particular characteristics: it involves permanent transformation and we constantly incorporate new knowledge and sometimes we observe how what we believed to be established facts fall apart. It is at this stage that formal education with courses, seminars, among others, necessarily coexist with another less formal but no less important training tool, which is continuing education through peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, in which we are sometimes trainees and sometimes trainers of other colleagues. This is where the scientific societies play an extremely important role.

Continuing medical education is the only recognized treatment to prevent the progressive obsolescence of professional competence; it is an ethical responsibility of all healthcare professionals to ensure safe and scientifically supported healthcare for their patients.

Amanda Galli

In this permanent communication and sharing of knowledge, we adopt, internalize, and incorporate useful and essential knowledge for our professional practice. Each of us has a level of development within our training with established knowledge that allows for the incorporation of new concepts and approaches when the necessary tools are available to us. This

zone of development that is close, at hand, can be reached by using our existing skills with the guidance or support provided by a more capable peer, adapting Lev Vygotsky's concept of learning. A pair that will give us the necessary scaffolding to climb one more step on the ascending path of our knowledge.

This is the fundamental and irreplaceable role of scientific societies in the current world. A world that is no longer limited to our daily work environment. We need our peers in our daily relationships but also in regional and international interrelationships to reach that "zone of proximal development" that is so necessary in a world in permanent change and evolution.

The SAC is committed to this target and has developed high-level courses that are offered, whenever possible, twice a year and in a virtual format that allows equal opportunities regardless of the place of residence.

We also organize workshops and case conferences with free access where opinions are fluently shared.

We also develop webinars, conferences and congresses with the participation of colleagues from other societies.

The recent congress on Imaging in Cardiology was attended online by more than 50 foreign guests, and hands-on workshops were held on a variety of topics.

The Argentine Congress of Cardiology will recover its usual face-to-face setting, with the active participation of several national and international guests. It will be a refreshing opportunity to strengthen bonds with our fellow countrymen and with cardiologists from sister regional societies.

We all need each other. Sharing makes us richer. The SAC gives you the opportunity to participate.

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