

Opening Speech of the 2018 Presidency of the Argentine Society of Cardiology

Discurso inaugural de la Presidencia de la Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología 2018

Authorities present in this event
Members of the Argentine Society of Cardiology,
Colleagues and friends,

It is with great pride and responsibility that I assume the Presidency of the Argentine Society of Cardiology (SAC), one of the most important scientific organizations at national, regional and international levels.

I thank my colleagues for having chosen and distinguished me with such a nomination.

We have witnessed the awarding of distinctions for active participation in our Society, the acknowledgement for the scientific work carried out (such as full members and awards for works), and for the excellence in professional careers.

These facts are another witness of the 80 years of life of our Society, founded on April 9, 1937, with extensive educational history, countless and rigorous research works and -most importantly- the high academic level of its members. I would like to pay tribute to the founding members of our Society, particularly to Dr. Pedro Cossio and Dr. Antonio Battro, who were the first Secretaries to lead the Society, since the term President was adopted only in 1950.

However, there is a question that many of you have surely heard: **What does the SAC give me?** As if it were a simple business transaction.

And regarding this question, I would like to make a brief personal comment. I remember the first times I went to the SAC, when I was just beginning my training in Cardiology; it was on the occasion of attending a course on arrhythmias by Dr. Branco Mautner. Later on, during one of the first presentations of 2D echocardiography in Argentina, Dr. Pablo Boskis (recently arrived from USA) showed a left atrial myxoma and a rheumatic mitral stenosis, greatly impressing me as I saw the heart beating in real time, with all the diagnostic and research possibilities that would ensue as a result.

Then, I took the second-edition course on echocardiography in the mid-1980s and also attended symposia on echocardiography, until one day we received a call in the Echocardiography Section of *Hospital Interzonal Gral. de Agudos Eva Perón* from Dr. Sara Beresznstein, inviting us to present a case at the medical seminar.

This simple anecdote summarizes some of the goals of the Argentine Society of Cardiology; first of all, the

educational goal and **continuous updating**; secondly, the possibility of professional growth based on sharing and discussing topics with peers; thirdly, a **place** to channel the effort and observe other examples; and finally, **motivation** to take part in scientific activities and **generosity** to share knowledge.

But in order to achieve these goals, individuals need study, work, dedication, and the “inner fire” that nourishes all the motivations in life.

We are going through hard socio-economic times defined by the lack of models to follow due to the loss of values and objectives that are not related to money matters.

Even the doctor-patient relationship –a simple and profound dialog between two human-beings– has been deteriorating as a result of the daily pressure to see more patients in less time. Unfortunately, the paradigm shift from the doctor-patient concept to the provider-client concept is becoming more and more frequent, leading to the distortion of the objectives of all the members of the healthcare team (doctors, nurses and technicians) and threatening one of the key goals of the Argentine Society of Cardiology, which is to reduce cardiovascular mortality.

I will mention some of our goals for next year.

TEACHING

The SAC plays a key role in postgraduate continuing education through several tools.

First of all, the **Biannual University Course of Cardiology Specialists**, which is held at our local SAC office through an agreement with the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), for more than 200 students, and is transmitted via Webex to the Adventist University Del Plata (in the province of Entre Ríos) and to the INCOR Institute in the province of La Rioja. The course is linked to the Cardiology Residency Program, which we are absolutely convinced is the best training system in the specialty.

Next year we are planning to expand the university course within the country via Webex, which requires signing agreements with local universities; it is thus essential to involve the regional districts to generate the link between both institutions.

PROSAC –our program for continuing education– will continue with a wide range of topics written by the experts from each specialty. Convinced of the role that our Society plays in the continuing education of

the entire healthcare team, one of the goals we set ourselves is to extend the PROSAC modality for technicians and nurses.

The online courses are the tool that naturally follows the university course or complement PROSAC. There was a significant evolution from the classic PowerPoint slide with voiceover to the current platform with improved support, including help desk, forums and assessment. This methodology allows all cardiologists in Argentina and throughout Latin America to have the same possibilities for updating, and that distances are no longer a barrier for continuous education. We currently have 10 courses, and it is estimated that there will be 18 for next year.

During this year we have made bilateral agreements with the American College of Cardiology, the European Society of Cardiology, the Spanish Society and the Mexican Society of Cardiology to carry out rotations abroad for 2 or 3 months, at renowned centers in various specialties.

We are about to draft the **Treaty of Cardiology of the Argentine Society of Cardiology**, a project by Dr. Miguel González, which we intend to carry out next year.

ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICTS

In 2018, the traditional annual conference scheme will be changed and extended to 7 **Interdistrict Conferences** in different parts of the country. During their development, the participation as speakers of the regional district members will be encouraged, in addition to including the presentation of independent studies and activities with the community, reinforcing the concepts of heart disease in women and the objectives of the 25 by 25 World Heart Federation program of 25% premature death reduction by 2025. Activities will be arranged so that cardiologists, clinicians, pediatricians, nurses, technicians, and the whole community can participate.

We will continue with the districts' **virtual workshops**, in which the technical difficulties of broadcasting are being progressively overcome in each edition.

I wish to renew the invitation to all members of the districts to participate in the structure of the SAC Congress Scientific Committee, the Councils, and the Research, Teaching and Regional District Areas. The doors are open for you; remote participation is increasingly feasible thanks to current technological resources.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

The **44th Argentine Congress of Cardiology**, the largest Spanish-speaking congress in the world will be held this year (with more than 10,000 attendees) and will include joint sessions with the main societies of the world, such as the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), the World Heart Federation (WHF), and the Inter-American and

the South American societies. A slot for the Scientific Councils will be included again, in addition to new formats introduced this year, such as the *Pecha-Kucha* sessions (short presentations) and the symposiums of public hospitals, which will involve hospitals from several provinces next year.

As in previous years, the **Congress of Cardiovascular Imaging** will bring together all those interested in different imaging modalities, such as echocardiography, nuclear medicine, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. This initiative was born in 1995 as a 1-day Conference on Echocardiography and with only national speakers; having witnessed its growth and taken part in the transformation of the most important imaging event in Latin America is really a source of pride.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

We will continue working with the **Argentine Foundation of Cardiology**, our community arm, carrying out joint actions focused on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, prevention, and heart disease in women.

On the other hand, we offer **Wikicardio**, a website with reliable information for the non-medical community, which -through an agreement with Google- has grown exponentially over the last year and has spread to Latin America in such a way that the first country visitor is Mexico, and the second one is Argentina.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

We will continue our partnership with **CONAREC** through joint activities; in addition, we are sharing the Argentine Chapter of the American College of Cardiology with the **Argentine Federation of Cardiology**; we will also continue with advocacy activity, the drafting of the reference Framework for Training in Cardiology Residencies with the Ministry of Health, and the ARGENIAM registry.

I would like to highlight one of the recent activities we had with the Argentine Chapter on November 21, the Webinar on cardiovascular prevention. It was held in the SAC auditorium, and was broadcast throughout the country. These webinars will continue next year, in April and September.

For those who become Full Members, the highest distinction of our Society: I would like to call on you to participate actively, in solidarity and on a permanent basis.

A special message to young cardiologists: As from today, the Argentine Society of Cardiology is your home forever; its members are your friends and your academic family. Our society recognizes high scientific qualifications and medical vocation in each of you, and therefore invites you to contribute to the institutional development with your creativity, independent criteria, and dynamism.

On a personal note, I was educated in public elementary and high schools, and in a public university.

I started my training in clinical medicine at *Hospital Villegas C. de Cordero*, in San Fernando, and then went on to do a pre-residency training at the *Instituto de Cardiología Pombo*, just one block away from here.

In 1980, I was resident at *Hospital Eva Perón* in San Martín, where I developed my hospital career until I became Chief of Department.

From those times, I would like to thank my teachers, Dr. Rubén Posse (1975 SAC President), Dr. Alberto Lapuente, and -particularly- Dr. Carlos Baudino, who had a great influence on my training as a cardiologist and as a human being. I would like to thank Dr. Giniiger, who taught me how to analyze arrhythmias, and my colleagues and friends from *Hospital Eva Perón*, with whom I shared the past 35 years.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all my colleagues who are leaving the Board of Directors today, Dr. Miguel González, Dr. Héctor Deschle, and Dr. Ernesto Duronto; it has been a great pleasure working with you.

To the SAC active staff, who help make the projects a reality.

To the Cossio Foundation for their constant support to our Society.

To the pharmaceutical, medical equipment, and food industries, and to non-traditional companies, for their sustained support to our Society, in our scientific meetings, courses and projects.

To my parents, to my brother Carlos, to my nephews, to my daughter Mariana, and especially to my wife, Alcira, for her love, tolerance and unconditional encouragement to develop my activity at the Society.

With regard to the question I asked at the beginning, I would like to quote Albert Einstein, who said: "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive."

To all of you, thank you very much!.

Dr. Ricardo A. Migliore

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology