

Speech at the Academic Act SAC 2006

I am deeply grateful to my colleagues for granting me the distinction, great honor and privilege of being elected Chairman to one of the most important scientific societies in our country.

I know about the responsibilities and obligations that it entails and I assume with the maximum conviction and knowledge the task that I am called to fulfill.

The Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología is a model created 70 years ago and 69 presidents who fulfilled their task in an impeccable and unpolluted fashion preceded me in this responsibility. This allowed that from the first day of its creation till today it maintained a growth dynamics that is very difficult to find in other institutions, and it would have been -and it is- my wish that our country would had done so too; unfortunately that did not happen and instead of being one the leading nations, today we are located in a place that none of us would have chosen.

Something far distant, luckily, happened with our Society, that managed to place Argentine cardiology within the leading cardiologies in the world and I wish to pay tribute to the 69 presidents who preceded me. I hope that my work and effort during the next year will allow me to emulate such outstanding example.

Twenty six years ago in this same stand and attending my second year of residency, I presented my first work on research as an open case, and it allowed me to begin my society career as adherent member and finally to have the honor of becoming full member, 6 years later.

Therefore, our house, my house, touches my heart so deeply, that I could not resist the decision that this year the academic act be hosted in our dear Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología.

For me it also entails a tribute to the efforts made to obtain it, the difficult task of maintaining it and the management capacity of all the directive commissions that managed to make our building patrimony grow.

Due to all these reasons, I ask you to excuse the discomforts that the insufficient space for such big audience may cause, but to honor in recognition to all those that preceded me makes it worthwhile.

I will now summarize the work project which we will develop throughout 2007 in our Society, jointly with the directors and personnel in charge of each area.

BI ANNUAL PROJECT 2007-2008

Research Area

"The Research Area of the SAC will have to be devoted to being close to the most important research developments in cardiology of our country".

The difficulty of not having a budget or work laboratory of our own warns us on the need to look for alternative means to attain leadership. A new vision of the Area demands to refund it as a linking node between research groups from all the country, more than as an independent research center. In the practical field, the Area will have to make agreements and contracts that tie it to universities, other scientific societies, institutes and other research teams to share their technology with the operational capacity of the Area.

The Area Director will make available to the Directive Commission the types of agreement, proposed areas of investigation and advantages of affiliation with each center in particular, for its analysis and ulterior approval.

"The research items explored by the Area will have to include the broadest possible spectrum in clinical cardiology and its social impact".

The traditional field of work of the Area will be complemented with a new systematic vision on research in order to include matters like our own institutional organization, the social impact of cardiology practices, genetic epidemiology, the cardiologists quality of life, the formation of human resources in the specialty, the ethical impact of medical advertisement and other ethics and deontological aspects. The development of continuous registries or data bases with information on epidemiology of cardiological importance will be prioritized.

"The Area of Research at SAC will have to be committed to the continuation of protocols previously developed, with a complete sense of continuity". The new direction of the Area must be committed to the task of carrying out protocols designed in previous years, and to invite members associated to the project to remain in the Area. *"SAC Area of Research will have to be positioned as reference center for the formation of investigators in the scope of scientific methodology".*

The implementation of courses, conferences, inter disciplinary meetings, and publications related to the methodology of research, both for the internal formation of the Area as well as for the general cardiological community, will enliven this somewhat forgotten sector. The same affiliation to universities and other institutions will allow counting with a critical mass of trainer investigators who will contribute with their experience to the formation of human resources. The main subjects of interest will be methodology, applied statistics and software management, the design of databases, bibliography search, the critical reading of studies and workshops on writing scien-

tific articles. The preparation of these courses will be based on a simultaneous research on the necessities of the cardiological community, on the basis of the analysis of the production of studies published in the Revista Argentina de Cardiología and SAC Congresses and Meetings. Also, the creation of a database with statistical software to be used by all the cardiological community will be promoted.

“The Research Area of SAC will have to create the suitable atmosphere for the exploration of new scientific methodologies”.

The promotion and use of the new methodologies must also have its space in the Area. The new techniques and methods used or under development in other disciplines will be analyzed. Particularly simulation techniques to explore different possible epidemiology scenarios and new methods associated with complexity treatment will be studied. The ideas exposed here approach the general and conceptual design of a work proposal; many of the outlined projects are in a more advanced stage of preparation.

“The main target is to be able to integrate the effort of all the work areas of the Society in order to reach the inclusion of young people who begin their career at the society and thus to increase the number of associates in all its categories”.

Area of the Regional Districts

The fundamental idea is regionalization to optimize and empower the efforts and activities, based on the performance of symposia, meetings and different educational modalities, which offer tools to obtain scores with the objective of facilitating the recertification process in all the country.

Educational activities with the medical residencies of the interior of the country will be generated and integrated to the activities of the districts. Regional councils by subspecialties will be created. As previously expressed, regional epidemiology studies, coordinated from the research area will be created.

An educational pole and medical rotations in the United States and Canada, where at present a great number of cardiologists who belong to our Society live and work, and are willing to actively and organically collaborate with our Institution, will be generated.

The XIX Regional Districts Meeting will be held next year in the city of Cordoba on October 5- 6, where the actual and effective participation of the members of the organizing district and the acquired commitment of all the districts are going to ensure the meeting success.

Concern has been already expressed by the previous administration on the increase in the number of associates and the generation of stimuli and opportunities for membership advancement clearly aimed at having more full members than can become the nec-

essary human resource to prevent that our institutional growth stops.

“We think that this commitment towards teaching and research in all our country is going to be translated into the awaited growth of the near future”.

Health Policies Area

From the time it was created, I actively participated in the Health Policy Area by invitation of Dr Trongé and Drs. Ananía and Vidal. The entrusted task was the categorization of the medical act. These three years of work allowed us to deeply understand the problems of the cardiologist in our country and the impact that it has in damaging the doctor-patient relation with the terrible consequence of impoverishing the quality of attention of our population.

The political decision this year was - and will continue as a project, the elaboration of documents that will detail what good clinical practice in cardiology means to determine the time that a medical consultation should take and thus be able to perform our daily work under these basic rules, demanding the honoraria adequate to the effort that it entails.

The basic foundation for the necessary qualification that we should have is obtained through programs of continuous medical education that began many years ago in our Society transforming it in a leader and example in our country, thus arriving in the first place to recertification.

“All this qualifies us to have the enough authority to request, petition and actively participate with the official government authorities that regulate our activity and to argue wherever necessary that our profession is should be categorized”.

Councils Area

It is the fundamental pillar for the entry of new generations to work at the Society and we are committed through the directors of the Area and each one of the Councils' directors to fortify this fundamental base of our society, encouraging and demanding an educational and investigational activity in close coordination with other areas enclosed in an interdisciplinary relation that can achieve the synthesis of the present knowledge and prevent atomization both in the clinical as well as in the technological subspecialties, avoiding confusion and promoting the use of the resources based on what has been accurately demonstrated.

Fundación Cardiológica Argentina

During 2005 I had the honor of being its chairman which led to a deep understanding of its activity and importance, both in the institutional -as a branch to the community of our Society- as well as for the community itself. Today it is transformed into the organization of greater prestige and credibility; suffice it to

see its enormous participation as consulting institution for all the mass media.

We are committed to its Chairman, Dr. Liliana Grinfeld to work very closely and to create a new image where Society and Foundation are clearly the same institution in front of the media that would require our opinion or participation, as all the members of the Foundation are members of our Society.

We already have undergoing projects on communications for the community and links with companies that are going to allow to us to obtain genuine resources to invest in teaching and investigation and to increase our prestige throughout the country.

Argentine Magazine of Cardiology

Dr Varini already emphasized the impeccable task of the Publishing Committee during these years. I want to comment that Dr Hernán Doval accepted to continue as director of our *Journal* and his designation is an award due to the excellent task that he and his collaborators have developed. I thank Dr Doval for accepting to continue, I know the enormous sacrifice that it implies for you.

In a recent meeting we discussed his future projects to continue in this path of excellence that the *Journal* has undertaken and soon you are going to witness these new features in the upcoming publications.

International Area

Also Dr Varini has commented on the obtained achievements and this positioning is going to facilitate our deserved international insertion and favor the growth of the Institution in all its areas.

Argentine Congress of Cardiology

As I already mentioned we turned 70 years; therefore the XXXIV Argentine Congress of Cardiology commemorates the 70th anniversary with the motto "Ethic, Critic and Education". It will be carried out between August 17 and 19, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel. The preparation of the scientific program is well advanced, major international faculties have accepted to participate, and we are going to have some new changes that, as every year, are going to improve the most important academic activity of our Society.

It is the objective of the Scientific and Organizing Committee to create a special atmosphere to allow

that the 2008 World Congress be preceded by a "top notch" event.

As Dr Varini expressed, it is going to be a motive of pride for the Argentine Cardiology and all the logistics of the Society are going to be ready to assist its Committees to ensure success.

Federación Argentina de Cardiología

As also expressed by Dr Varini, within that mature and brotherly environment, and in a space of common work and trust with its maximum expression in the organization of the world Congress, together with Dr. Varini, in a meeting held with the present and the future Chairmen of the Federación Argentina de Cardiología, we decided carry out a joint Consensus and we created a working Commission that is preparing the project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Directive Commission and its Chairman in particular, Dr Sergio Varini, with whom I worked in a community of thought and who shared his projects with me and included me in them with absolute generosity and transparency, turning my work into pleasure and making me enthusiastically wait for Tuesdays and Thursday to work in reaching the objectives.

His excellent work and effort, dedication and responsibility, allowed him to obtain practically everything he hoped for, and everything that is underway or not yet finalized, this Chairman has promised him to work to make it become a reality.

It is very important for me to emphasize the surrounding intellectual freedom in which I was able to work and thus develop the Congress and the ideas for next year.

This year's Congress was a success and again I wish to thank the Scientific Committee that accompanied me and on its behalf, to Dr Alberto Villamil.

"Institutions grow because of the people who believe in them, who can correct errors raising new ideas, in an atmosphere of group work".

Thank you very much.

Dr Osvaldo Masoli