**EDITORIAL**

**Fundación Dr. Pedro Cossio 2008 Award**

PEDRO R. COSSIO

Durante el Primer Congreso de la Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología, llevado a cabo entre el 2° y 4° de octubre de 2008, la Fundación Dr. Pedro Cossio otorgó un Premio que fue entregado el 26 de octubre de 2008. El Concejo de la Fundación Dr. Pedro Cossio 2008 entregó el Premio a Pedro Cossio.

As in all the previous editions, I would like to stand out the excellent level of the works that competed for the Award, as well as the quality of the presentations that culminated in a brilliant scientific exposition.

The work awarded was:

- “Contrastive Analysis of the surgical outcomes in neonatal cardiac surgery, using the RACHS risk stratification method”, by Dr. Mariano Ithuralde, Dr. María Ballestrini, Dr. Alejandro Ithuralde, Dr. Carlos Seara, Dr. Pablo García Delucis, and Dr. Carlos Nojek.

This work is indeed interesting because it provides conclusions to the performing of different surgical corrections of congenital heart defects; the work states very clearly that the surgical risk for these pathologies does not depend on the age or size of the surgical patient, but on the defect complexity; it also demonstrates that delays are not necessary or convenient, and that immediate action is required according to the corresponding pathology. A very interesting epidemiologic and clinical survey on heart failure in Argentina, which analyzes behavior and evolution of this disease during hospitalization, and three months later, in patients who require hospitalization. It has been observed that many decompensations occur due to factors that may be prevented, and that the rate of complications is high and has not reduced in the last eight years.

What calls my attention are the low use of digitalis (25%) and spironolactone (30%) in the population analyzed and the lack of use of amiodarone, considering that since 1993, and thanks to the work GESICA, by Grancelli, Doval, et al., we know (1) that its administration in low doses decreases rehospitalizations and mortality; and of anticoagulants, all the more so if 30% of the population analyzed had chronic atrial fibrillation.

- “Benefits of the hormone replacement therapy on the coronary microcirculation in postmenopausal women with risk factors”, by Dr. Roxana Campisi, Dr. Thomas H. Schindler, Dr. Deborah Dorsey, Dr. John O. Prior, Dr. Alvaro Facta, Dr. Xiao-L Zhang, Dr. James W. Sayre, and Dr. Heinrich R. Schelbert.

This observational study shows a positive effect of the hormonal therapy on the endothelial function. In the authors’ words, it needs further research in order to know if the effect on the vascular endothelium results in a clinical benefit.

I would like to thank Dr. Juan Krauss and Dr. Daniel Piñeiro for their collaboration; they have taken part of the Jury with me, with absolute dedication and generosity.

In addition, the Fundación Cossio announces a new Award edition for 2009.

**Dr. Pedro R. Cossio, M.D.**

Presidente de la Fundación Cossio

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