

The International Insertion of the Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología

Our Society has a wide variety of functions that are undoubtedly centered in all that is related to the organization into a hierarchy of the Argentine cardiology. The society provides a special approach and services to its members for their professional performance.

However, the international position of our cardiology has also an essential importance when we integrate our practice and knowledge with the realities in other regions. This allows us to compare and improve our standards, as well as showing our cardiological reality to a more integrated world.

Since its creation, our society had intense international relationships which have been developed in its almost 75 years of life. These relationships allowed our institution to represent the Argentine cardiology before institutions such as the World Heart Federation, the Interamerican Society of Cardiology and South-American Society of Cardiology.

Briefly, I will mention the present state of our international insertion and future projections. In relation to regional institutions, our Society was centered in the creation of the South-American Society of Cardiology and it has participated and nowadays it participates in all its tasks. Likewise, the work in the Interamerican Society of Cardiology (South America, Central America, the Caribbean and North America) is very intense and during the next two years this institution will be presided by a member of our Society, for the prestige of the Argentine cardiology. There are many bonds with the national societies of cardiology in the region and as an example, we may mention joint sessions carried out in our annual Congress with a replica in the corresponding national congresses: Rioplatense Conferences with the Uruguayan Society of Cardiology, Trans-Andean Conferences with the Chilean Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, Joint Conferences (Argentina-Paraguay and Argentina-Bolivia) of cardiology with the corresponding societies from Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru.

In order to complete the Latin American region, we also have an annual joint session with the Spanish Society of Cardiology in our congress and in the Spanish one. From this year, we have agreed with the Brazilian Society of Cardiology, and as a way of policy of strengthening relationships, the realization of SAC-SBC Joint Sessions; the first of them was carried out in our congress which followed the one performed two weeks before in the Brazilian Congress of Cardiology. These sessions will have an annual periodicity and they constitute a way of strengthening the regional cardiology when linking our Society with one of the most important

scientific institutions in the region.

The relationship with the American College of Cardiology is historical and a proof of that are the joint sessions carried out each year in our Congress, as well as the outstanding number of Argentine fellows from this institution. This year, that important relationship was increased when our Society got the possibility of performing an ACC-SAC Joint Session in the next congress of the American College in Chicago (2012). From the year 2012, our Society will carry out joint sessions in the congresses of the American College. Undoubtedly, this is the product of a long relationship and, above all, of the importance of our Society in the agreement of the American continent. In the same way, according to the important number of Argentine fellows, our Society has decided to favor the creation of an Argentine Chapter of the ACC in the same way as others performed in different countries.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation programs developed by our Argentine Federation of Cardiology, under the supervision and certification of the American Heart Association, have also generated an important institutional bond. As a proof of that, this year our Society was invited, by the first time, to participate in the elaboration of the scientific programs in the AHA Congress (2011) through the designation of a SAC's representative who worked in situ. Plans to develop this relationship consist in the execution of a SAC-AHA joint session in our Congress of Cardiology and exploring the possibility to have a reciprocal session in the AHA Congress in the United States.

In the last years, the European Society of Cardiology constitutes one of the most important referents of our specialty. Its annual congress is probably the most important cardiological event of the world due to the number of assistants, as well as due to the hierarchy of contents and innovations that are exposed. The European Society of Cardiology is made up of different member societies (from the European region) and affiliated societies. Among them, the Argentine Society of Cardiology has one of the largest lists of members.

This, added to the importance of our annual Congress, has allowed the concretion of an agreement for the realization of a block in our Congress with the most important innovations from the European Society of Cardiology (last congress, guides and consensuses) brought by an important medical delegation, headed by the president of the institution. Contents were presented in the Argentine Congress of Cardiology which took place last October and they were discussed by prominent

representatives from our Society. This extra-regional activity from the European Society has been spread to few countries and only to two of our region (Mexico and Brazil), apart from our country. This reaffirms, once more, the importance awarded by the European Society of Cardiology to our Society, and therefore to our country, when establishing its global development strategy.

These and other prominent facts in the international action of our Society have made possible and will make possible the realization of prominent events in our country, as two World Congresses of Cardiology (the last one in the year 2008), the Interamerican Congress of Cardiology within the framework of our Congress (2013), the First Echocardiography Societies World Summit within the Conferences of our Echocardiography

Meeting carried out this year, as well as the realization of TCT-CACI-SAC Conferences inside our annual Congress which entail an exceptional exit outside the United States of the famous event of interventional cardiology.

Anyway, the development of other possible ways of growth in this area (SAC joint sessions abroad with societies of first line, among others) is an unavoidable mandate when positioning our cardiology in the agreement of nations and it also takes part of member objectives in the development and organization into a hierarchy of the specialty.

Dr. Carlos Barrero^{MTSAC}

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology