



THE COLOMBIAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY IN THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ITS CURRENT PRESIDENT

The Colombian Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery was founded in the laboratory of Cardiology and Endocrinology, San Juan de Dios Hospital in Bogota on September 18, 1943, at the invitation of Dr. Ramon Atalaya. According to that historic moment, this entity was constituted in order to be dedicated to the study of the problems of physiology, pathology, pathophysiology, and therapy of vascular system in Colombia. Thus, its creation was motivated by the desire to create a group dedicated to the study of cardiovascular diseases in the country.

Over time and thanks to the impulse, development, joint work and love for this organization, this was growing and its purpose was also extended to the study of cardiovascular diseases beyond the environment of its partners, to the dissemination of that knowledge through congresses, symposia and workshops, and through the magazine, its official publication to the other members of the local medical and paramedic society.

All these developments led to constitute it a national benchmark in medical education, to gain and maintain an immense prestige in the academic and professional environment and to generate always expectations in the field of knowledge and teaching.

Our society has built in his magazine a very respected bastion of knowledge expansion and scientific research of the country, and has had in these last years a remarkable growth and development headed by Dr Jorge León and Dr Dario Echeverri, who have given it a drive and a change that will be fundamental for its development.

Consequently, it is vital for its growth in the medium and long term the determined and active contribution of all partners so that this process may turn it into the nation's most important publication and project it later as an international Cardiology reference. This requires also a constant stimulus so that its associates continue publishing in it, propitiating medical research in the cardiovascular area, and thus generating more scientific and academic production. In other words, we all are called to provide for our body of scientific dissemination.

Similarly, another aspect that is part of the missionary objective of the Society is to magnify, strengthen and turn highly attractive and necessary our process of continuing medical education. These projects should search through all available means of academic dissemination achieve to take in the largest number of associates to achieve and maintain our academic development at the highest cardiology level of the country. This achievement, without any doubt would impact and contribute to the reduction of cardiovascular mortality, which remains the leading cause of death in Colombia.

In that line of thought, efforts have been made to find these means of medical education through our robust website where the course of clinical cardiology has been implemented in convention with ASCOFAME, addressed to clinical cardiologists, pediatric cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons and soon, in convention with the Spanish Society of Cardiology, the Catholic University San Antonio of Murcia (UCAM) in Spain, and the full support of the Menarini and Biotoscanase laboratories, will start the Masters in clinical Cardiology, program for clinical cardiologists that will allow a complete upgrade in that area , and will provide from now tools which in the future will facilitate to apply to a voluntary process of medical recertification.

Additionally, work has been done in affordable courses via the web for education on specific aspects of clinical cardiology: such is the recent case of the course of heart failure, whose significant success encouraged the development of others of the same magnitude such as the courses of acute heart failure, atrial fibrillation and hypertension, among others which are being prepared for the current year.

It should be noted that projects of continuing medical education set in this presidency have had the unanimous support of the Board, thanks to the conviction that in this way a greater number of associates can be favored.

Another important point in this regard is to motivate the different chapters and councils to promote own education strategies that may enable to increase the development of these groups, which would multiply the knowledge of what is being done in different fields of cardiovascular knowledge (e.g., new techniques in cardiovascular surgery, learned, discussed and worked for the common improvement of those procedures, new techniques and developments in hemodynamics, or new drugs, and better ways of implementation with greater benefits for patients among other things).

All these projects of enlargement of the strategies for the great missionary objective of the Society require changes in attitude and optimization of resources, and therefore in giving priority to the development of these, eliminating some benefits that do not meet the goal of educational achievement.

Our projection for future should be strengthened in the growth of the processes of continuing medical education, the stimulus to the development of research in Colombia, in the obtainment of medical records to generate analysis with conclusions that may allow to propose changes in public health policies and to increase the academic production turning it into a benchmark for the country.

This is not achieved without the strong unanimous support of all our associates and without considering at all times the known phrase that says: "Do not say what society should do for you, but what you can do for your society".

With my respect to all partners, I always ask to surround the next presidents and boards in order to enlarge more and more our beloved Society.

Efraín A. Gómez

President

Colombian Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery