

What does the SAC do for us?

¿Qué hace la SAC por nosotros?

Over the years, we have heard many times questions such as: What does the SAC give me? Why should I be a member?

Once the medical career is over, and with the university degree, professionals still have a long way to go before gaining enough experience to practice medicine responsibly. Over their lifetime, they should continue studying and learning new skills. No pedagogical system, however good, can assure its graduates an indefinite high level of professional competence.

The concept of ongoing training evidences the expiration of the knowledge and skills acquired and the need to be always learning new concepts. But knowledge buildup throughout the career –while indispensable– is not enough to achieve excellence.

In recent years, ongoing medical training has been progressively replaced by a broader and more comprehensive idea: ongoing medical development, which incorporates the active professional commitment to training and updating, making professionals participants in identifying their own deficiencies in the training process and encouraging them to collaborate in the design of the learning strategy.

The purpose is to transfer those scientific advances that can benefit our patients to the healthcare routine, making a critical analysis of the usefulness of each new approach and ruling out previous practices when the evidence shows they are obsolete. It also entails facing new pathological processes, changes in morbidity and prevalence and forms of clinical presentation of diseases, as well as contributing to the demands of systematization of diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms.

Physicians' ethical obligation is to keep up with the highest standards, and that is a difficult task. Achieving high standards in all fields of cardiology on one's own, and isolated from the rest of the medical community, is difficult to carry out in practice. It is for this reason that scientific societies are so valuable. Conceived as associations of specialists in a branch of knowledge or in sciences in general, scientific societies allow their members to meet, share their research results, compare them with those of their colleagues, and promote their work in events or specialized publications. They also deal with academic training, contributing to the dissemination of medical advances in subspecialties and to critical discussion, generating

consensus opinion on diagnosis, follow-up and treatment of diseases as well as guidelines for the appropriate use of available diagnostic resources.

Scientific societies encourage their members to be actors of their professional development; however, the primary driver of growth emerges from within each individual and is a determining factor when it comes to taking advantage of the opportunities scientific societies offer us.

In its long history, the Argentine Society of Cardiology has always been committed to comprehensive professional training, proposing innovative educational tools, and including new technologies to meet the needs of all members –regardless of their place of residence– with on-site and remote educational activities. It promotes research, since the production of scientific knowledge builds the foundation of health care practice and makes it possible to control the quality of our actions.

The SAC organizes the Annual Congress of Cardiology in Spanish, with the largest number of attendees worldwide. In each region of Argentina, the SAC promotes the organization of scientific conferences, integrating the geographically related districts to increase opportunities for exchange and presentation of scientific works. The SAC publishes an internationally renowned Journal, which precedes the creation of the Society itself. Wikicardio is a reliable source of information for patients, so that they also receive the benefits from the Society. And I could go on with an endless list of projects.

This system continues over time due to the tireless effort of many wills who dedicate long and honorable hours to develop educational programs. These achievements would certainly be unthinkable without the collaboration of the SAC active staff, embodying and implementing all our outlined goals.

But the range of opportunities the SAC offers only makes sense if all members are involved in the growth process, if we take advantage of what the SAC offers, and if we commit ourselves to improve and also offer our effort. The SAC provides unlimited opportunities for professional development; we just have to take advantage of them.

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