

A new challenge for CorSalud and a well-deserved expression of gratitude

Un nuevo reto para CorSalud y un merecido agradecimiento

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Mr. Editor:

I promise not to go on at length, but I couldn't let the new challenges facing CorSalud go unremarked.

Gratitude, as Comte-Sponville states, is the most pleasant of virtues—and not the easiest... It takes nothing away from us, yet it is a gift in return. It is both gift and participation.

It is not a duty, though it can disguise itself as servility or selfishness, and thus become flattery, obsequiousness, or falsehood, in other words, a vice. Still, what prevails is the fact that gratitude "is joy, the secret of friendship, and an echo of the pleasure of receiving".¹

We wish to begin today with gratitude, just as it was expressed in the first issue of the nascent journal CorSalud back in 2009, when many contributed to making its publication a reality.² The responsibility of naming those who made this possible was immense, and for that reason, the support and assistance received will never be forgotten. The ongoing efforts, for more than 15 years of existence, have also rested on many shoulders. It is only right, then, that the mantle of gratitude extends to each and every person who has helped keep this work alive. Yet it is impossible not to mention Francisco Luis Moreno Martínez, MD, an exceptional professional who, with tireless tenacity, embarked on this titanic endeavor, and who now, only stepping back to the stern of the ship, continues to guide and enrich the journey of those who follow, with the wisdom of experience. Many thanks to him, for his loyalty and friendship were a lifeline during moments of uncertainty and demotivation in the editorial process. He made many of us believe that there is always more to be achieved. Thank you. Let us not forget that gratitude is the memory of the heart.

But allow me to go back a bit in time... On separate occasions, a cardiologist and a cardiovascular surgeon shared with me their desire to create a new journal in the province, one dedicated solely to their medical specialty. I couldn't help but smile, especially since both were asking for my help, and this was something we had never before encountered. I accepted the challenge, first, because it was part of my own professional responsibilities, and second, because they were both such close friends that it became nearly impossible to refuse their request.³ Thus, in 2009, CorSalud, the Journal of Cardiovascular Diseases of the central part of Cuba, was born. Getting it off the ground and keeping that first gear turning proved to be its greatest challenge.² The cardiologist who first assumed the role of Editor-in-Chief now holds the title of Honorary Director.

CorSalud, as a regional scientific journal, set out to become the most appropriate platform for disseminating new findings within the scientific com-

munity, sharing the work of those engaged in this field of science; promoting research to support both teaching and the self-directed learning of our professionals; and establishing the journal as an essential reference to contribute to the continuous improvement of patient care quality.²

The early days were far from easy, there were significant obstacles to overcome, often in the absence of basic resources, both material and human. Nevertheless, the journal remained steadfast in its commitment to being an open space for the entire cardiology community, welcoming all who wished to publish and collaborate.⁴

In 2019, the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Cardiocentro Ernesto Guevara in Santa Clara, Cuba, expressed that they had found in CorSalud the ideal outlet for the scientific articles produced by their specialists, as well as an excellent platform for disseminating clinical outcomes, research project results, and special coverage of scientific events.⁵

Today, the challenges are different and far greater, aligned with the development of new strategies for enhancing editorial management in recent years, the requirements set forth by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and the editorial policies of the Ministry of Public Health in our country. This challenges are accompanied by a new approach towards Open Science in scientific communication, which has revolutionized the way scientific results are shared and accessed by our community.⁶ Adding to this new phase is a change in leadership. Coincidentally, or perhaps fittingly, the journal is now led by that same cardiovascular surgeon, Gustavo de Jesús Bermúdez Yera, MD, along with a team of young professionals who face an even greater challenge: to preserve and advance what has been created, maintaining or even surpassing the same high standards of quality. The challenge has been set, and undoubtedly, it will continue with the same level of excellence.

I promised I wouldn't go on too long... Therefore, I will conclude by returning to the words of Raúl Dueñas Fernández, MD, Director of the Cardiocenter in the year CorSalud was first launched, as he wrote for the inaugural issue of the journal: "This digital publication is the result of sustained effort, the fruit of perseverance, the most important virtue for achieving any dream".⁷

What truly matters is recognizing that the scientific achievements of the Cardiocenter can never be fully understood without acknowledging the existence of CorSalud.⁸ Wishing strength and success for all that lies ahead

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