

## Sudden cardiac death: Everyone's problem

### *Muerte súbita cardiovascular: Un problema de todos*

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#### ARTICLE INFORMATION

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Dear Colleagues:

It has been three years since our first appointment in Havana for addressing an important global problem; according to experts, among the biggest challenges for health systems worldwide in this century: the sudden cardiac death.

With a sudden worldwide death rate of 4-5 million deaths per year, which translates into 10 episodes per minute dedicated to reading these reflections, its greatest impact exceeds these numbers and it is justified by grief and mourning in those involved in the occurrence of the event, together with the enormous family, economic and social costs to be faced by the nations, representing the third cause of potentially lost years of life, with the impossibility to live because of this reality.

After deep discussions on November 2013, in Havana, the Research Group on Sudden Death of Cuba, sponsored by the Ministry of Public Health, the representation in Cuba of the Pan-American and

World Health Organization and the *Hospital Clínico-Quirúrgico Hermanos Ameijeiras*, decided to arrange a new exchange. This time, from an integrating perspective, in order to cover the study of the phenomenon: «Sudden cardiac death: from genes to society», considering the genetic, environmental and sociodemographic elements involved in the manifestation of this type of morbid event.

Taking into consideration that the main link is preventing the phenomenon, it was included as a prelude to the Second National Symposium on Sudden Cardiac Death, hold on December 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the *Hospital Clínico-Quirúrgico Hermanos Ameijeiras*, the International Course: “Sudden Death and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in 2015: International agreements, suggestions and survival”. Its aim was to make an update on aspects related to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the cardiorespiratory arrest, where the recent publication of the ILCOR 2015 standards were taken as a guide, contributing to the generalization in its application.

A recognized group of experts from the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Councils of Spain, Peru, Argentina and the *Asociación Latinoamericana de Cooperación en Emergencia Médica y Desastres (ALACED)*, members in the drafting of ILCOR for Europe and Latin America, and members of the Latin American Association of Emergencies integrat-

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ed this teaching board. More than 300 course participants from 10 countries updated their knowledge concerning the care of the sudden cardiorespiratory arrest.

An important representation of researchers from 20 countries attended this scientific meeting, where stand out the research groups from the European Division of Cardiovascular Disease, *La Sociedad Española de Patología Forense* (Sevilla, Valencia, Vizcaya, Murcia) , the SUDDEN Project of the United States of America, and the working groups of Latin America, in representation of Peru, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Argentina and Brazil; beside other nations like Canada, Italy, Portugal, Japan and China.

Parallel to the development of the II National Symposium on Sudden Death, the Ibero-American Convention on Sudden Cardiac Death was in session, a meeting designed for discussion and presentation of results of scientific research among Ibero-American researchers.

After five days of intense debates and scientific exchange from multiple disciplines with a single goal: to perform an update on Sudden Cardiac Death

–taking as its premise the need for a comprehensive approach for this disease, from a multi and interdisciplinary conception– took place the closure of the event's second edition, where a call for a new event in 2018 was released: the First International Symposium, III National Symposium and II Ibero-American Convention on Sudden Cardiac Death, to be held on November 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, in Varadero, at the province of Matanzas.

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### CONFLICT DE INTERESTS

Luis A. Ochoa Montes, MD, PhD, is the Chairman of the Research Group on Sudden Death and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the II National Symposium on Sudden Cardiac Death and the I-Ibero-American Convention on Sudden Cardiac Death.