

Seventh Message from the President of the Cuban Society of Cardiology: International projection for 2016

VII Mensaje del Presidente de la Sociedad Cubana de Cardiología: Proyección internacional para 2016

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Being so close to the New Year we are making a brief summary of the most important scientific activities carried out by the Cuban Society of Cardiology (SCC, by its acronym in Spanish) in 2015, where workshops on Echocardiography, (IX) Interventional Cardiology (X), Arrhythmia and Cardiac Pacing, and also Prevention and Cardiac Rehabilitation (X) stood out for their organizational and scientific level. All of them were organized by the relevant sections of our Society and had an active and large attendance by their members and other related professionals.

The Congress of Cardiovascular Diseases Cardio-Villa 2015 is particularly relevant, because of its high scientific level and broad national and international participation. It was held on *Cayo Santamaría*, an exclusive natural-beauty place in Caibarién, and efficiently organized by the SCC Chapter of Villa Clara

and the *Cardiocentro Ernesto Che Guevara* from that province.

In the course of the year the SCC board members participated in more than a dozen activities related to our main relationship body, the *Consejo Nacional de Sociedades Científicas de la Salud* (National Council of Health Scientific Societies) and the *Ministerio de Salud Pública* (Ministry of Public Health), as well as the *Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas* (Cuban Association of the United Nations), from which our Society continues to be a Collective Member. Many of its associates were approved, upon request, as Individual Members during the year.

It should be pointed out that we keep our status of Affiliate Member of the European Society of Cardiology in the international arena, reached in 2014, which benefits can be found on our organization website: www.escardio.org. We also keep active our membership in internationally important cardiology organizations such as the World Heart Federation, the Interamerican Society of Cardiology and the regionally closer Central American and Caribbean Society of Cardiology. We have also maintained links, in many cases through our members, with other international companies or organizations whose primary mission is the development and up-

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dating of different cardiology specialties. The SCC members play or have played essential roles in many of them. Such is the case of the International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, an important cardiology organization, based in Geneva, with a broad profile and mainly dedicated to drug treatment in a number of cardiovascular diseases. This organization has included a number of Cuban cardiologists in its partner list and freely provides all the available information on its website (www.iscpcardio.org) to our Society members, including its periodical Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy.

From the celebration of our past Eighth Cuban Congress of Cardiology, held at the *Palacio de Convenciones* (Havana International Conference Center) in Havana in June 2014, –where several American cardiologists participated, all of them members of the American College of Cardiology (ACC)–, joint actions were developed in order to increase relationships between this institution and the SCC. Its main motivation was the confirmation of those visiting our country for the first time, of the high scientific level of Cuban cardiology and the organizational capacity for a so important event; reasons enough to take it to a high international level.

Then on December 17, 2014, begins the political and governmental exchanges between Cuba and the United States of America, culminating in the reestablishment of diplomatic relations eight months later. This moment increased the interrelation actions between the two organizations and allowed direct contact among its executives who have shared together in the framework of international scientific events. The future creation of a Cuban Chapter in the ACC has been arranged, same as those from other countries of our continent and Europe. This would facilitate international experience exchange and more important, spread our work worldwide, particularly in North America. It would also ease our access to updated information and medical literature from that nation, which is hardly reachable for us at present. It was also agreed to grant the status of Fellow, the highest scientific recognition given to ACC members, to Cuban cardiologists who would meet the requirements. Once reaching the amount of

20 Fellows at least, the aforementioned Cuban Chapter would be formed. Detailed information can be found on the ACC website (www.acc.org), also on the SCC's (<http://instituciones.sld.cu/socubacardio>). You could freely access its periodic journal: Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC) and every Cardiological Clinical Practice Guidelines published on it and on its website in recent years.

Similar contact has been developed the last months with the American Heart Association (AHA), another important and internationally recognized cardiology institution based in Dallas Texas. They have offered their collaboration to develop research or medical work, as well as advancing Cuban participation in SCC/AHA Joint Sessions, within its recognized annual meetings.

All of these are actions that are currently under evaluation by both parties and require indispensable ways for timely realization.

Also in 2015 we made contacts that will increase those traditional links that the SCC has historically maintained with other scientific organizations, such as the Spanish and Mexican Societies of Cardiology. At present, joint research and the celebration in Havana of bilateral cardiac events with them are being prepared.

The role and position of Cuba is shining more and more in the international arena, such light must be reflected in each of the institutions comprising the scientific and social work of our nation; the Cuban Society of Cardiology needs also to be nurtured from that brightness.



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"Year 58 of the Revolution"