



Lots of Accomplishments at the End of the Year for SBC

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In my last posting as the President of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (SBC), I would like to highlight the most recent accomplishments of our Society. At this opportunity, I would like to once more congratulate the authors of the five original articles that won the V ABC Scientific Publication Award. The Award, which has since 2005 been sponsored by Sanofi Aventis, is an incentive to cardiovascular research in Brazil by publishing high-level scientific manuscripts at the *Brazilian Archives of Cardiology (ABC)*. The award-winning articles are available for viewing at: www.arquivosonline.com.br/premio.asp.

A few days before the announcement of the V ABC Award results, SBC had the honor to officialize its affiliation to one of the most respected Cardiology organizations worldwide: the American College of Cardiology (ACC). Hence, SBC has become the Brazilian chapter of the ACC, which has a federative function and the same importance of the state offices of the *College* spread throughout the United States. To make the chapter a reality is to see a long-time dream come true in the national cardiology and means to be able to foresee a very relevant future, from a scientific point of view and from the point of view of international integration.

Moreover, in the beginning of the month, we promoted the Highlights SBC 2009 to present the advancements in knowledge in the field of Cardiology that took place throughout the year. The event was attended by the President of ACC, Alfred A. Bové, and by the Editor-in-Chief of the *European Heart Journal*, Thomas F. Lüscher, and it received unanimous praise from the participants due to the comprehensiveness of theme presentations. The debates will soon be available for the "Cardiol" associates.

Subsequently, we carried out the I Latin-American Forum of Chagasic Cardiopathy to discuss the new phenomena of food transmission and the globalization of the pathology and, last, but not least, we created the first international guideline on the theme with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Inter-American and South American Societies of Cardiology, under the leadership of SBC. The event gathered specialists from Puerto Rico (Wistremundo Dones), Uruguay (Juan Gonzalez Moreno), Venezuela (Harry Acquatella), Argentina (Sergio Sosa-Estani and Jorge Mitelman), in addition to several colleagues from Brazil.

All these initiatives followed the participation of SBC at the 2009 Congress of the American Heart Association (AHA), held in November, in Orlando, USA, which was SBC's 7th participation in a large international event in the last two years. Several important decisions were made during the congress regarding the association between SBC and its international peers, which not only guaranteed the continuity of their partnership with the entity, but also praised the initiatives and the importance of the specialty in Brazil.

The fruits of this interchange are available for viewing in the Brazilian Portuguese version of *Cardiosource*, the first medical education site in cardiology of ACC translated into the national language and under a Brazilian perspective. The tool represents an opportunity for SBC to offer high-quality contents to other Portuguese-speaking communities. The resource is available at the SBC site in Internet and integrates the project of online covering of the 2009 AHA Congress through which, for the fourth time, SBC has made available to its associates the main topics presented at an international event. In total, more than 12 videos have been made available, with interviews with foreign researchers and respected national leaders and the summaries of 11 studies presented at the congress.

Finally, considering the approaching Holiday Season, there is much to celebrate. And to top it off, we can commemorate the 20.5% decrease in mortality due to cardiovascular disease in Brazil, which has been announced by the Ministry of Health. Undoubtedly, the outcome improvement demonstrates the efforts of an entire professional category devoted to the preservation of health and life and signalizes the importance of partnerships established between the Federal Government and medical organizations, such as SBC, in projects with such purposes.

A Happy Holiday Season and a Successful 2010!