

What Can the AAOT Do for Me?

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President of the AAOT



Dear member:

It is almost a tradition for the newly appointed president of the AAOT to write the editorial for the first annual number of our journal.

I spent a long time thinking of what to write, so as to go beyond some politically correct statements, or repetitions of concepts I have already transmitted in previous communications.

Nothing. The muse would not arrive. She was stuck in quarantine.

Until I decided to write as if I were in front of each member of the AAOT. And this is what I would tell them:

The AAOT does not exist.

It is an illusion created by Argentinian traumatologists. Indeed, there is a building, there are people working in it, there are multiple actions and activities taking place in the Association... but that does not prevent it from being an artificial creation of men. What, then, makes it “appear” as if the AAOT existed? Answer: the actions of the traumatologists. What each and every one of us does for the AAOT.

When people asked the former President of the United States John F. Kennedy what the country could do for them, he allegedly answered: *ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.* Paraphrasing that answer, and addressing the frequently asked question of what the AAOT does for each member, the answer is to ask ourselves what each of us does for the AAOT. Firstly, we make it exist. And we make it work. We make it teach. We make it educate. We make it bring its wealth of knowledge to all the country. We make it host conferences; teach courses; grant certifications; provide exams; edit a wonderful journal; make professional and implant quality assessments. And the list goes on.

When it was founded, back in the year 1936, education was as important as it is now, but our founding fathers understood back then that it was through the AAOT that that knowledge could be transmitted. The AAOT pursues that noble mission, one that can hardly be accomplished somewhere else.

Nowadays, things have changed: not the aim, but the methodology. The internet, webinars, classroom and virtual learning, worldwide conferences, the activity of local hospital services, the possibility of travelling and of participating in hospital services abroad, member societies, etc., have facilitated access to information (a very welcome change!). Has the AAOT lost its meaning?

NOOO. On the contrary. The AAOT actually stimulates this, shapes it, coordinates it, trains us and makes us better.

Why does it seem like the AAOT does not fulfill its role? Because the situation of the country has forced other priorities to arise, harassing the traumatologist. Without them, proper training becomes difficult. Of course, we are talking about fees, working conditions, professional practice. The problem is not that education has lost relevance. The problem is that in order to access education we need time and adequate conditions.

We have heard and understood our members’ demand for the AAOT to be involved in the topic of professional

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practice, and over the last years, we have tried to act accordingly. After numerous attempts, some of them successful, some of them failed, we are on the verge of acting through an association of Argentinian traumatologists, with the aim of protecting professional practice, in all of its areas. That is the purpose of unionization. Will it be able to achieve it? That depends exclusively on us. Ask not what unionization can do for each of us. We already know the answer.

Complaints in the dressing rooms, before every surgery, or in the athenaeum halls, do not contribute much. Lack of participation in the AAOT contributes even less. Attempts to save oneself individually are perhaps the worst of the alternatives. Colleagues: either we go together and work together, or you can be sure we will keep on complaining in the dressing rooms *per secula seculorum*.