

## Professional practice

Dear colleagues,

Throughout its 80 years of age, the AAOT has developed intense academic, scientific and educational activities, and it is a key pillar for postgraduate education, training and shaping numberless orthopedists.

The AAOT has extensively achieved its main goal, which is to promote and upgrade the teaching of Orthopedics through different academic resources, thus guaranteeing excellence in the final training of the orthopedist.

Throughout the years, the AAOT has also strengthened its posture in defense of the professional practice of its more than 5,000 members. Therefore, more than 15 years ago it participated in the creation of the Argentine Federation of Orthopedics Associations for Professional Practice (**FAAOTEP**, by its Spanish acronym) so as to bring together, advise and defend all the Regional Associations (AR, by their Spanish acronym) and Provincial Associations for Orthopedics and, later on, it created a Secretary of Labor (**Secretaría Gremial**). These two events were essential and absolutely necessary to supplement the AAOT's academic activities.

Everything took and takes its times. **Now, it is the time to negotiate with Social Medic Care Associations, Working Risk Insurance Associations (ART, by their Spanish acronym) and Private Medic Care Companies to improve and honor our salaries, our working conditions and the hope that we are acknowledged and decently rewarded as specialized professionals.** Many AR, after protracted and harsh negotiations, have made it in several regions of our country.

Paradoxically, the largest AR, which is the one that brings together more members, the one in the CABA, was created and organized two years ago. This is the way the **AOTCABA** (Asociación de Ortopedia y Traumatología de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires) was born, intending to bring together all the specialists that run professional practice in the CABA.

The AAOT members, as independent professionals, lack in labor unions and joint committees that represent us and periodically claim increase and up-dating of our backward medical salaries. We have always had to accept the pay-rises decided and imposed by health care companies without consultation.

The AR, **staunchly supported by the AAOT**, have acknowledged that it is already time to negotiate our salaries directly with the "health companies". The implementation of a new **NUN** (National Unique Nomenclator), supported by the AAOT, the FAAOTEP and the Societies of Specializations as a key tool, will allow us to make progress in the up-dating of medical salaries.

This will only be possible if in the CABA we come together, we get organized, we identify one another and we participate actively in the **AOTCABA**.

The road is difficult, but it is not impossible. We need from the colleagues that run practice in the CABA five things: **CONFIDENCE, CREDIBILITY, COLLABORATION, SUPPORT and COMMITMENT.**

That is why we need representation at every institution they work at: Community Hospitals, Clinics, ART, Private Hospitals and Municipal Hospitals.

The Executive Committee of the AOTCABA acknowledges the responsibility taken, and we know that there are many that expect a lot from us...

We are working hard in our first negotiations. You are welcome to become a member of the AOTCABA.

We need you.

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