

The Association's Road

Dear colleagues and friends:

I proudly accept the responsibility for conducting the Association that the membership has delegated to me. I'm aware of the challenge faced by authorities today, an age of change, maybe the most dramatic change since its foundation.

The AAOT is a scientific organization with educational and formative purposes, and the greatest national prestige.

Times change at higher speed than administrations do, than educators' assimilation and adaptation... I believe teaching is more difficult than learning.

Today, images are as important as contents, results as analysis and reflection, immediacy as long-term development.

Every day we suffer the deterioration of our vocation which, mainly human, suffers the ravages of a consumerist and materialistic society; undoubtedly, we have to change. We have to recover the fundamental principles of ethics, social solidarity and education.

This coming year, our Association will go out seeking the more than 4000 orthopedists that do not belong to our institution. The least privileged, especially those who work in the provinces and, more specifically, in the outskirts of the City of Buenos Aires.

We will go to the greatest lengths to facilitate their inclusion so as to transmit our values and give academic projection and working protection to them.

We need an Association more open and inclusive. If they belong to our community we will be able to help them, and that is all what education is about: "To help someone to be a better person".

We will transform both ordinary and extraordinary sessions for them to be more interactive and dynamic. Master classes are doomed to disappearing—social networking, Webinars and the internet have relegated them to a secondary place. Today is time of colloquial meetings where the audience participates actively, with access to the whole country, bridging gaps and decreasing costs by streaming.

Throughout this year, we will develop the first *Orthopedics Training Course* for agents working in the orthopedic industry, with the aim of offering a service to those who have long been with us; we will give them a training certificate. Moreover, we will develop both a basic and an advanced *Surgical Techniques Course*, and will deliver a *Surgical Instrument Assistant Course* with headquarters in Buenos Aires and the province of Córdoba.

I hope to work as a team, with active participation of the Ex-presidents Counsel, summoning one of its members for him to work as a communicating and consulting link with us, being present at financial meetings, which will take place on a monthly basis. The Association needs everybody's expertise and knowledge and, undoubtedly, the Ex-presidents'— "You are a president this year, and an ex-president the rest of your life".

We will assess the possibility to create a young chamber, as federal as possible, made up of chiefs of residents, for them to bring queries and needs to us, for us to hear what they have to say.

It is advisable that our Directive Committee can count on an Education Counsel made up of members (president and secretary) coming from the different committees to work more collaboratively.

We will continue with the established inter-institutional agreements, both national and international ones, trying to keep and even improve our links with the different entities and inviting them to participate in meetings and educational interchanges.

As regards the AAOT Journal, it is indexed in Latindex and it is part of the Basic Nucleus of Argentine Scientific Journals, what allows it to continue indexed in the SciELO website. As of the present year, we have decided to come back to our printed version keeping the current online version, which is more reader-friendly. The Journal should be and is able to finance itself, and it will be our commercial manager's duty to get to it.

We will continue encouraging research grant-holders, expecting feed-back at the end.

We have taken on the commitment to collaborate with the Implants Sub-committee, the Morbimortality Committee, the Implants Record, the Library, Certifications, Re-certifications, and every working team.

We have to analyze the role that the Association will have to play in the future and, in order to do so, we will summon integrating Societies and regional Associations for an integration commitment.

If we are more organized, we keep a scientific agenda previously scheduled and we allocate time and sources better, we will also train our young orthopedists better.

We have to reconsider the Annual Congress and the Association, given the increase in training days and meetings within the different specializations and regions; we have to analyze them so as to optimize and join efforts.

Last but not least, I want to refer to the importance of our Union, the Argentine Federation of Orthopedics Associations for Professional Development (FAAOTP—Spanish acronym), which is working incredibly hard to improve and dignify our work. I want to highlight the importance of the National Unique Honoraries List (NUN—Spanish acronym) to defend working development of all orthopedists.

Today I want to thank my masters, Doctors Salomón Schächter, Eduardo Zancolli and Juan Terencio Henry, who taught me generously and instilled in me love for our profession; undoubtedly, they have been the ones who inspired me.

This is an interesting challenge, and to face it I count on a balanced and committed, great Directive Committee. We will be austere in our administration given the hard times we are going through—we have to rationalize what we spend. I'm backed by the AAOT staff, most of who have long worked for us and feel the Association as their own, who add the belonging "plus". I'm also backed by my friends' inestimable support, by those who have been with me all my life... I'm not meant to mention anyone of them so as not to be unfair with anyone; and my family, which shares with me every working day that, with vocation and dedication, I give to the Association.

My most as AAOT President will be the moment when I hand down this responsibility convinced of having done what I had to, having given the Association the best I had to.

*Alberto Macklin Vadell, MD
AAOT President*