

Unity makes strength

Miguel Á. Ayerza, MD
AAOT Chairman



Dear colleagues,

This Board of Directors assumes the mantle of our Association leadership for the ongoing year committed to continue fostering the highest academic level concerning the study of the musculoskeletal system pathologies, as set by our founding goals, and to encourage professional ties among our members.

To this end, in our last Congress, we held meetings with the presidents of all the Member Associations, looking into each association basic needs, considering the common goals and getting to know the academic achievements of each association. We enjoyed two mornings of intensive exchange, where we received some complaints concerning the AAOT, including “the specialist needs the nationwide comprehensive codification [NUN] to be implemented throughout the county”, “to abandon academic lectures of our training courses”, “as a Member Association, the AAOT is not meeting our expectations”, “some AAOT congresses lack both speakers and topics”, “in its role as parent association, little has been done to cement ties among specialists”.

We also received some recommendations, such as “exploit streaming for AAOT academic activities”, “increase communications on AAOT activities”, and to assume the role of parent association and “work toward creating ties and fostering integration among the member associations”.

In line with all our predecessors, this Board of Directors plans to continue the scientific development of the AAOT throughout our nation and in a uniform way, but also to strengthen the ties between our specialists. Therefore, in December we send a survey to our 5733 members, so as to assess which common grounds can build ties within our medical practice. Out of the 1084 surveys received during the year-end weeks, we draw the following preliminary information:

- Obtaining the University Specialist Degree in Orthopedics and Traumatology is regarded as a remarkable 2019-AAOT achievement by 82% of our members.
- Most respondents consider that the AAOT offers great benefits to its members, such as continuing medical education, an annual congress, university certification, and bibliographic support. However, they voice their concern regarding the AAOT’s inadequate efforts concerning union protection for the medical profession and concerning the development and update of the NUN throughout the country.
- Seventy percent consider that NUN nationwide progress is hindered by the little cohesion among colleagues.
- The media formats of choice by our members are the AAOT web page (60%) and the AAOT and member associations’ general interest newsletters (30%).
- Forty-seven percent consider themselves not to be active members, because they cannot devote any time to it, while 20% find challenging undertaking scientific research.

MIGUEL Á. AYERZA, MD • miguelayerza@gmail.com 

How to cite this paper: Ayerza MÁ. Unity makes strength. *Rev Asoc Argent Ortop Traumatol* 2020;85(1):1-2. <https://doi.org/10.15417/issn.1852-7434.2020.85.1.1048>

The survey also included a final open question: What are your 2020 expectations from the AAOT? The answers were manifold, but many addressed subjects such as: “little union activity”, “progress regarding a NUN for all the orthopedic network”, “more benefits for province members”, and “sensible fund management”.

This feedback compels us to action; we must not only be prepared to secure our longstanding education excellence but meet the needs of our members: Orthopedic Training, union protection, NUN implementation throughout the country. Clearly, ahead of us lies an interesting challenge, a special year when many of us need to stand together and work hard for the advance of the AAOT. Suitably, our Board of Directors is young and yet experienced in association matters, as well as heterogeneous (conformed by representatives of different provinces) and yet homogeneous as a group of friends united by the same passion. We also have our highly capable and experienced staff for the everyday operations of our dear AAOT.

We want all members to know that we will devote ourselves to our Association and we want them to participate and to continue investing in their medical knowledge, and furthermore we want to stand closer and we place our trust in the future by achieving unity among all our members, which will allow us to embark on all our common goals.