

# In times of COVID-19

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1925 Buenos Aires offered us a peaceful afternoon. A gentle breeze, suitable for an Autumn romance. Walking at a slow and steady pace, two men crossed Córdoba Avenue after emerging from the Medicine University.

The hour favored the University by framing its frontispiece in a most unique manner, letting the sun draw the asymmetrical building reliefs.

Miguel de Unamuno and Teófilo Villegas chatted lively, but the eldest wore an unusual frown. This expression only reflected a recent incidental event.

The youngest spoke with passion:

- Don Miguel, let's put our faith in technology and science. A fine example is this streetcar, competent and useful, making the cobbled street tremble.
- That well may be, Villegas, my dear friend, but do consider that notwithstanding the awe-inspiring technological development that the streetcar represents, the most important aspect and of only importance is life. Without a doubt, remember that the only important aspect is life.

In 1956, the streetcar had changed. It had become an incredible development. Meanwhile, life remained an unchanging biological cycle; unparalleled and lethal.

Those of us who have lived through a few decades remember the '56 Polio Epidemic. At the time, the epidemic seemingly only way of mitigation was washing the pavements with creolin and painting trees with lime.

Children carried offerings to Heiden and Medin in forms of camphor wood pieces kept in their scapulars, which constituted not as much, but an ignored pectoral. This freshening ornament obviously knew nothing of viruses or bacteria.


The current coronavirus pandemic also carries the demonization of the disease, ignoring that it is actually only a microorganism formed by genetic material.

This hectic virus shares, within the biological scheme, the same space as humankind.

You reader may remember the song *Hierba de los Caminos*, a Spain Civil War song, which wondered how a tomato could be responsible for human actions. The tomato line could be replaced with COVID-19 and the song would still ring true.

We orthopedists are no strangers to fears and are aware of the significance of life as part of that cycle that began at birth.

We witness how the zoological scale balances this scenario and allows foxes to reclaim spaces in cities nearby hills and enraged rats to teem in human habitats.

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The AAOT offers counsel, for we know that fear is a premature patient with a poor prognosis and that media facts have short half-lives.

If COVID-19 is set in its swift and fearless progression, orthopedists must most likely have already reached orthopedic Valhalla

During day time, we face the challenges of correcting deformities, healing fractures and aligning joints.

During night time, we hail propedeutic and therapeutic triumphs, just to continue with the cycle the very next day.