

30 years of the Argentine Association of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery

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In 1992, a group of members of the Argentine Association of Orthopedics and Traumatology decided to move forward with the challenge of creating a new scientific society that would integrate those interested in Shoulder and Elbow pathology. This initiative was in line with a phenomenon that, at that time, was beginning to manifest itself internationally. A few years earlier, Charles Rockwood had defined it as an “explosion of interest” regarding the subject.¹

The years have shown that these pioneers were not wrong. In the case of the shoulder region, aside from the complexity of its anatomy and function, a long list of differential diagnoses has been added (more than ninety have been described). On the other hand, treatment requires, in addition to an accurate diagnosis, the application of a wide variety of therapeutic tools. All of the above justifies the need for an institution dedicated to this anatomical region and its neighboring joint, the elbow.

These three decades witnessed intense work that has provided our Association with the administrative, economic, academic and human resources to fully meet the objectives defined in our Statute.

We believe that the purest form of graduate training is that offered by scientific societies, in which narcissism and commercial bias are diluted by the group spirit and the contribution of varied ideas. We offer programs at different levels of education, not only for doctors and other professionals in the healthcare field, but also for children starting from the preschool level thanks to our non-profit activity.

Some milestones in this long path were the organization of the most successful World Congress of our subspecialty in history,² and the Latin American Shoulder and Elbow Congress of 2011, the largest of the 25 so far organized in our subcontinent. Surely this issue of the *Revista de la Asociación Argentina de Ortopedia y Traumatología*, as well as the *Primer Curso Internacional Patagónico de Hombro y Codo*, which we will carry out next October in the city of Ushuaia, will be new milestones that we will add to our history.

Today, our Association is the only institution recognized in our country as a referent in the pathology of both anatomical regions by the *International Board of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*,³ the *Sociedad Latinoamericana de Hombro y Codo*,⁴ and by the rest of the continental and national societies in the world. This international recognition goes beyond the administrative and also includes the appreciation of our intense activity at a global level.

The celebration of these first 30 years finds us with a solid structure in which the fundamental basis is camaraderie and coincidence in basic values, everything else is technical and, therefore, changing and debatable. Fortunately, there are still many challenges ahead that, as usual, we are willing to face. Our doors are open to all those who share these values and enthusiasm.

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