

And after the pandemic...

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The critical pandemic situation, which has dominated day-to-day life for the past two years, seems to be coming to an end, both in terms of public health and daily activity, which has seen its reality change. This was also the case in our environment, with the cessation of scheduled surgical activity and consultation services, the closure of examination rooms... COVID-19 drastically affected our activity to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the specific nature of each work center.

In addition to this obvious aspect, there have been other less tangible but equally devastating aspects – slowed down projects, undermined professional development, deteriorated personal relationships, and general despondency.

Nevertheless, not everything has been negative in these two years. There also has been an aspect of opportunity. The pandemic has promoted teleworking, teleconsultation, and online meetings between professionals, groups, or an entire scientific community to exchange knowledge or interact professionally, replacing the classic and unavoidable face-to-face meetings. Webinars, telematic sessions, online courses, and congresses are proliferating. It has brought us closer, both personally and professionally. And there is no turning back.

It has also shown us the fragility of our reality. It has taught us to value what is essential and what is not, and also to take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves, since nothing is everlasting.

Now is the time to recharge our batteries, get excited about projects that have been put on hold for two years,

and start new ones. And to adapt our new telematic reality to an already fully active day-to-day life.

As a Scientific Society, we also have challenges to face in the immediate future. On the one hand, there is the whole subject of Recertification, a path that had already been initiated by the Spanish Ministry of Health before the pandemic, with slow but steady progress in recent years. The time is approaching when each Scientific Society will decide the criteria for Recertifying its members and what tools it will use to do so. It will provoke debate and professional involvement, but it must be addressed.

The second challenge, specific to our Society, is the internationalization of our journal, with the association with many other Latin American countries. Once again, the objective is to search for a formula that satisfies everyone and promotes a scientific journal that has been the main foundation of our activity since our Society was set up.

Therefore, these two challenges call for new approaches, extensive dialog, and involvement, not only by the Board of Directors, but also by all our members. I appeal to the younger generations, since they have lost a little of the tradition and the essence of what we represent due to the pandemic hiatus. Our Society will be what we want to make of it – either an active, 21st century Society, with the participation and involvement of young people eager to contribute and grow, or a decadent Society anchored in the past, with a weak heartbeat and no hope. It is time to take a stand.

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