

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On this occasion, in the section of "Letter to the Editor" of the *Boletín Médico del Hospital Infantil de México*, we present the "welcome" at the awards ceremony in pediatric research "Aaron Sáenz 2012" under the direction of the honorable Agustín M. Sáenz.

Dr. Mercedes Juan López, Secretary of Health, Mexico  
Dr. José Alberto García Aranda, General Director,  
Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez

Dr. Jesús Kumate

Dr. Fabio Salamanca Gómez

Jury Members responsible for the prize for Pediatric Research "Aarón Sáenz 2012"

Dr. Sara Huerta Yopez

Dr. Guillermina Juliana Baay Gúzman

Dr. Miguel Klünder Klünder

Dr. Patricia Clark

Investigators responsible for the projects of the prize-winning groups

Esteemed members of the Sáenz family joining us

Distinguished guests:

First, congratulations to Dr. Mercedes Juan López on her appointment as Secretary of Health in the Government of President Enrique Peña Nieto. Clearly, her merits achieved have given her the distinction of earning such a high position, particularly in a secretariat fundamental for life and coexistence of all Mexican citizens. We are sure, Dr. Mercedes, that you will respond to the position entrusted you with the hope that to the extent possible and with the advancement of science, diseases and conditions that arise can be anticipated and resolved. Moreover, I would like to say that I have the pleasure of knowing your background because you have been part of various altruistic institutions that serve the social sector, both public and private.

How wonderful that you have this spirit of altruism because my grandfather, General Aaron Sáenz Garza, also had the power to help resolve, among others, health problems and social concerns. This is known, especially in the Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez, of which I

serve as Chairman of the Board. That effort is now continued by my family through the association I chair.

I must also acknowledge Dr. Jose Alberto García Aranda and his team. Due to their efforts, they pass on to us the will to support this important work on behalf of Mexican children.

Dr. Mercedes and distinguished guests, allow me to share some information about my grandfather. Don Aaron was born in Monterrey, Nuevo León, in 1891. He served in the military, he was a revolutionary, deputy ambassador, lawyer, governor, minister of various departments, senator, statesman and business man. I should also mention that he was an exemplary father and family leader and a person with the noble virtue of knowing how to help.

As a military leader and revolutionary, he received several appointments until he held the rank of Brigadier General, later becoming Deputy. At the age of 24 years, he had already participated in 17 acts of war as well as carrying out numerous services to the revolutionary cause.

In 1918 he was appointed Ambassador to Brazil, and 2 years later he was appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs. In 1926 he was elected Governor of the State of Nuevo León. He then requested permission to continue to work with General Obregon in his reelection campaign as Managing Director of the Obregonista Center. The result, already known, was the triumph of General Obregon, whose performance for a second presidential term was thwarted by the attack at the restaurant "La Bombilla", which occurred on July 17, 1928. That afternoon, General Obregon's riddled body fell to the side of his friend and collaborator, Aaron Sáenz. The reaction of "obregonistas" consisted of immediate political orientation for Aaron Sáenz as a pre-candidate for the presidency of Mexico. However, Plutarco Elias Calles and most members of the military and political class chose to favor Pascual Ortiz Rubio who, once elected President, designated my grandfather as Secretary of Education and, subsequently, Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor. In this last position he encouraged signing of the first Federal Labor Law of the country.

After completing his ministerial management, he was elected Senator, and President Abelardo Rodríguez requested him to take the rule of Mexico City where his

political and administrative career culminated. However, his work in the service of the country continued tirelessly in the private sector. In this sector, Don Aaron participated and consolidated his position in the sugar industry and its derivatives as well as in the financial sector, banking, insurance and finance, civil aviation, metallurgy, film and various other companies. His tireless work resulted in the construction of a major industrial and financial consortium that successfully continues today.

Along with intense experience in political and business life, years showered with memories of glory, success and high-level business activities, there was also the remembrance of challenges, hardships and concerns.

Aaron Sáenz Garza died in 1983 at the age of 92. In 1985, the "Asociación General y Licenciado Aarón Sáenz Garza, A.C." was founded, whose specific purposes include the fields of education and research, among others. Since then it has fully achieved its objectives. This Association was established at the initiative of my father, Don Hector Sáenz Couret, my uncles Don Aaron Sáenz Couret and Don Rolando Vega Iñiguez, and other distinguished personalities.

Today the third generation, to which some of those present at this ceremony belong to, directs the priorities

of the same Association and we are confident that through these efforts of the Association we can continue the philanthropic spirit and example of a great man.

This award has been given since 1988. In fulfillment of our commitment, last year and this year to date the Association has provided three monthly scholarships to physicians at the Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez.

For the year 2013 and for as long as possible, I pledge to continue to support this noble work.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

Esteemed Dr. Mercedes, I ask you, at this time, to please present the awards and recognitions that the Association gives to the prize-winning physicians of the Annual Prize for Pediatric Research "Aaron Sáenz 2012".

Thank you.

Agustín M. Sáenz

México D.F.  
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