



EDITORIAL

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Changes in Society

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In Mexico, we have lived a series of experiences from the foundation of our country's oldest and most important Associations related to anesthesiologist and algologist's union.

Ever since I started as an active regular member of the Mexican Society of Anesthesiology (SMA from its acronym in Spanish), in 1973, the Society already had a prestige and important drawing power, with the tradition of great teachers who preceded us and who had managed to maintain a privileged place for the Mexican Journal of Anesthesiology, and was fighting for maintaining this important Dissemination Body and putting it at the service of all anesthesiologists of the country, as well as of tireless and dauntless professors in anesthesia and pain medicine who convinced other physician and prominent figures of the high medical hierarchy of the places that responsibly were corresponding to us in the area of the operating rooms, rooms of recovery with patients suffering from rebellious and difficult to control chronic pain syndrome.

In 1976, I participated with the group lead by professor and friend Dr. Guillermo Vasconcelos Palacios in the Organization of the 6th World Congress of Anesthesiology, which was a resounding success and millions in profits, which led to discord and disputes among the other-states and Mexico City anesthesiologists. I remember especially among the most upset those groups from Chihuahua, Monterrey and Guadalajara. However, and in order to give to all anesthesiologists of the country something than it had been collected from the 6th World Congress, Dr. Vasconcelos created the Benjamín Bandera Foundation, and on this basis started a great boom in the update of many anesthesiologist groups through the country, since the Foundation granted loans and/or money in support of this organizers and scholarship holders.

At that time a split arose among Mexican anesthesiologists due to the hegemony that the SMA was exerting in the guild, and since then the denomination of the Mexican Society of Anesthesiology was considered inaccurate, which competed "disloyally" with the FSARM, since its name was remembering the widely known ASA (American Society of Anesthesiology) and was provoking that the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiology's authorities to look for SMA representatives instead of those from FSARM to establish academic and union bonds, which resulted in greater dissatisfaction among anesthesiologists from outside of Mexico City.

I remember that Dr. John J. Bonica attended an a Refresher Course organized by the SMA in 1979 and when I ask his opinion about our problem at national level he recommended to avoid discords, join forces,

publish a single and strong anesthesiology journal that really had participation of the majority of Mexican anesthesiologists, avoiding to have two or three journals which only divide quality and prestige which already have won, and ironing out differences with the Associations of country.

These and other recommendations were considered by country colleagues and it resulted in a new meeting between FSARM and SMA. However, there are still discontent at the national level against the Mexican College of Anesthesiology A.C, promoted especially by anesthesiologists of country north.

In my concept there is an inheritance –product of political-social-demographic and demagogic centralism that concerns to Mexicans– that our teachers left following the model of those times when the SMA was created in November, 1934. And it was left, even those when creating the modernization from the SMA to Mexican College of Anesthesiology A.C. (CMA from its acronym in Spanish), they did not consider changing the name, given the long trajectory of the SMA. This lead to colleagues from outside Mexico City to continue with his nonconformity with respect to the name, but especially with regard to that the statutes it was not put in clearly and in writing, as well as that the CMA had to be a non-competitive element of current Mexican Federation of Anesthesiology, to which also they changed the name, and I think, for benefit of the Federation. Moreover, Dr. Uriah Guevara Lopez, being president of the CMA, organized an extraordinary Assembly where a paragraph was added, in where it is clear that the CMA is not an institution competing disloyally with the FMA, to which it respects and considers for the agreements that emit of it. This decision was accepted by the then directors of Federation.

But individual matters, rumors, and even resentments put these two extraordinary groupings on the horns of a dilemma.

We Mexicans have a reputation or prestige, good or bad earned, that as soon as someone excels, there are several trying to reduce or diminish it, so that he/she does not feel special or better than the others. However, leaders of our good institutions have given examples of the constructive and useful that is to work forwards with high goals and perspective towards excellence.

Then, we say: “Not to indifference”, “not to apathy”, “not to rumors”, “not to have gut feelings”, “not to irrational, looney and sterile fierceness”, “not to obstacle without background principles.”

It is my wish –for the future of the Mexican College of Anesthesiology and the Mexican Federation of Anesthesiology which will change name before long– that we stopped fighting for maintaining a name which provoke conflicts and diatribes between brothers.

Preserve sense of purpose and strength that makes this Society, now College, is the most powerful as isolated Association, as regards collegial organization and labor, academic and scientific and merits. However, we should not compete to put in disadvantage to other Colleges or Federations but to fortify the union, with good reasons and forget what we inherited of our teachers: egoism and arrogance.

Let us be brothers, more honest and humble. But not weak but solidary and strong, powerful, generous and united persons.