

President's Message

January 2021

Despite the second COVID-19 wave affecting mainly Western countries, 2021 brought the hope of vaccines against the SARS-Covid2! The big challenge at the moment however is access to the fruit of the amazing work of dedicated scientists and clinical investigators from all over the world. We as health professionals, academics, and scientists must support the vaccination programs and extensively combat misinformation and anti-VAX movements. Only vaccination will bring our old lives back! Despite this, it's important to emphasize that atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease persists as the number one cause of death and disability and we all must continue doing our daily work against it. Considering the lingering pandemic IAS will continue working on web based educational programs for the year, however not disconsidering the 2021 International Symposium on Atherosclerosis (ISA) meeting in Kyoto, Japan, October 24-27 occurring in a hybrid way (<https://www.c-linkage.co.jp/isa2021/message.html>). This will open the possibility of including speakers from different parts of the world and giving opportunity to access to the scientific program for colleagues living in time zones different from Japan. In addition to the triennial meeting, this year IAS will start its residual risk educational program that will have Prof. Virgil Brown former IAS president as host, we are preparing a quite exciting program with a group very representative colleagues from all over the world. Please stay tuned. It is extremely rewarding being able to work with people from different parts of the world and IAS was quite honored to have a symposium at the 4th Big Sky Update Cardiology conference held in Sharjah UAE at end of January. Indeed, physicians

from the Gulf Region are one of our most active members and we are proud to announce the 4th IAS Severe Familial Hypercholesterolemia Masterclass to be held in Kuwait (a virtual meeting) on February 19-20 & 26, 2021. In addition, we will have the 1st joint IAS and ASPED (Arab Association of Pediatric Endocrinology) course of pediatric familial hypercholesterolemia. In both meeting we'll be able to exchange experiences between colleagues from the GCC and international faculty. In February I will also represent IAS on a session at the 2021 Philippines on February 18 Lipid and Atherosclerosis and Hypertension societies and I'd like to sincerely thank Dr. Adriel Guerrero for this honorific invitation. This is just a part of the activities we plan for 2021 and please visit our athero.org website and social media @atherosociety (twitter) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/atherosociety/>) for more information.