In some parts of the world February and March have brought the “miracle” of massive vaccination on the occurrence of COVID-19 cases. This really illustrates what good science and strong political will can make happen. Unfortunately, in other regions the impact of COVID-19 and newer variants of SARS-Cov2 are still worrisome.

The impact of COVID-19 upon people with cardiovascular disease and those at high risk to develop it is still very high and we as health care professionals must try our best to keep the therapies of our patients optimized with the goal of reducing this risk. IAS believes that education and partnership are essential to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease.

We had the terrific experience of working together with our colleagues from the MENA region and specifically from Kuwait on the 1st Kuwait Familial Hypercholesterolemia Symposium-4th Severe FH Masterclass & the IAS-ASPED Pediatric FH Satellite on Feb 19, 20, and 26, 2021. We had more than 603 participants that were able to watch lectures from an amazing faculty not only from the MENA region but also Europe, the Americas, and Africa. That was really international and within the spirit of IAS. The symposium will be soon available at www.athero.org. I’d like to thank our colleagues, especially Drs. Ahmad Al Sahaf, Khalid Al Rasadi for their support and Drs. Asma Deeb, Abdelhadi Habeb, and Mohammad Al Dubayee from the Arab Society of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes (ASPED) for the start of, what I hope will be, a long-lasting partnership! Finally, I’d like to thank our sponsors for the support.

I’d like to add that we are intensively working with Dr. Virgil Brown in preparing a series of videos on our residual risk series with speakers who have invested decades on
research and clinical care of patients. I’m positive that you'll like the experience. Stay tuned!

In the spirit of cooperation IAS is also working with the World Heart Federation to have joint symposium at the World Congress of Cardiology in conjunction with the Japanese Circulation Society meeting from March 26 to 28. The theme will be on CVD risk stratification (on demand session #7) and I’m positive you'll like it! Please access www.c-linkage.co.jp/jcs2021/English.

Talking about Japan, the Japan Atherosclerosis Society team is working very hard preparing for the XIX International Symposium on Atherosclerosis (ISA) that will take place as a hybrid meeting from October 24-27, 2021(https://www.c-linkage.co.jp/isa2021). In addition to a world class symposium, we are honored to announce that IAS will once again provide not only the Antonio M. Gotto, Jr Prize but also the JeanCharles Fruchart Prize, the latter in cooperation with the R³i Foundation. The information about nominations can be found at athero.org and the emails for registration are respectively GottoPrize@athero.org and fruchartprize@athero.org

Hope you all stay healthy

Raul Santos