

Farewell Message
Raul Santos
IAS President

“Thank you all very much for your support, friendship and actions: Saying goodbye does not mean farewell”

Over the last 3 years I had the privilege to serve as president of the International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS), it was at same time an honour and a challenge. Even considering the COVID-19 pandemic I can gladly say that I have achieved my goals to continue the important work of my predecessors in fulfilling the society’s commitments and mission.

During these years we were able to perform more than ninety activities including presentational educational programs in different countries, webinars, podcasts, scholarships, surveys, joint activities with other societies and groups, publications of consensus documents in important journals and the ISA Kyoto 2021 congress, among others. IAS grew, we were able to increase the number of member societies and we did the best to be inclusive and diverse!

Cooperation, friendship, exchange of ideas and support guided the society over these years and certainly this made a lot of difference. We have now a new, strong, and diverse elected board that I am sure will make the society grow under the leadership of Peter Libby and Dirk Blom. I have no words to thank IAS staff represented by Emanuela Folco, Chris Seymour, Elena Colombo, and Karen Foy for all the support and patience. I’d like also to thank my colleagues and friends Jennifer Robinson, Richard Ceska, Jacques Genest, Samia Mora, Shizuya Yamashita, Peter Libby, Khalid Al Rasadi, Khalid Al Waili, Rodrigo Alonso, Michal Vrablick, Kerry-Anne Reye, Alberto Lorenzatti, Ahmad Al-Sarraf, Stephen Nicholls, Gissette Reyes-Soffer, Fahad Al-Nouri, Abdelhadi Habeb, Dhong (DeeDee) Zhao, Antonio Chagas, Rody Sy, Adriel Guerrero, John Chapman, Gerald Watts, Peter Lansberg, Samuel Gidding, Robert Hegele, John Guyton, Alan Brown, David Wood, John “Bill” McEvoy, Pedro Mata, Ramin Puri, Mutaz Al-Khnifawi, Lale Tokgozoglou, Khurram Nasir, Gilles Lambert, Frederick Raal, Handrean Soran, Kosh Ray, Paolo Magni, Carlos Ponte, Ron Blankstein, Marat Ezhov, and Brian Tomlinson for their help in making IAS move forward. My special thanks to Wael Al-Mahmeed for his generosity and helping IAS to improve research and education in MENA/GCC region. My admiration and thanks to former IAS presidents Philip Barter, Yuji Matsuzawa, Virgil Brown, Antonio Gotto, and Jean-Charles Fruchart for guidance and support, you were all examples to be followed!

Also, I’d like to recognise many organizations that have cooperated with IAS like the Oman Society of Lipids and Atherosclerosis (OSLA), Arab Society of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes (ASPED), the Iberoamerican FH Network, the Family Heart Foundation, FH Europe, the National Lipid Association (NLA), the Atherosclerosis Thrombosis and Vascular Biology (ATVB) Council, The Departamento de Aterosclerose of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology, Beijing Society of Cardiology, Korean Society of Lipidology and Atherosclerosis (KSoLA), Philippines Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society (PLAS), Federación Argentina de Cardiología (FAC), Interamerican Society of Cardiology, the Society of Cardiac Computed Tomography (SCCT), Egyptian Association

for Endocrinology, Diabetes & Atherosclerosis (EAEDA), Iraq Lipid Clinics Network, European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), the International Chair of Cardiometabolic Health, the World Heart Federation (WHF) and last but not least the Japan Atherosclerosis Society (JAS).

Certainly, cooperation and friendship made all of us stronger. I would like also to thank the support and trust of IAS' industry council members as well as companies that helped us do our work on an independent manner: Amgen, Amryt, Amarin, Pfizer, Viatris, Kowa, Novo Nordisk, Esperion, PTC therapeutics, Novartis, and Sanofi.

In my opinion, saying good-bye does not mean farewell and I hope I can contribute more to IAS in the future. It was a terrific experience to have interacted with you all. I do wish Peter Libby, Dirk Blom, and the new board the best of luck and I am positive you will do a lot!

Sincerely
Raul Santos