75th Anniversary of the Spanish Society of Cardiology, Seville, Spain 2019

75 Aniversario de la Sociedad Española de Cardiología, Sevilla, España 2019

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Distinguished members of the head table, high authorities of the Spanish Society of Cardiology and of the Inter-American Society of Cardiology, special guests.

It is a very high honor that has been conferred me to address a few words at this ceremony for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Spanish Society of Cardiology, in convergence with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chavez” of Mexico and of the Inter-American Society of Cardiology.

I have been appointed by Dr. Marco Antonio Martínez Ríos on behalf of the National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chávez” and its current general director, Dr. Jorge Gaspar, to express our highest consideration, respectful feelings, and congratulations to the Spanish Society of Cardiology and to the Inter-American Society of Cardiology in this commemoration ceremony.

The National Institute of Cardiology “Ignacio Chávez,” first of its kind worldwide, paradigm and model for numerous institutes of other nations, was founded on April 18, 1944, in Mexico by Professor Ignacio Chávez, an iconic figure of medicine, education, culture, and humanism in the 20th century.

The National Institute of Cardiology is an institute of medical excellence and social justice; a high-specialty

hospital with recognized experts in the field of humanitarian aid for people with heart conditions and assistance for patients of low economic resources, subsidized for tertiary cardiac care, which strives for the prevention of heart disease and aid for the rehabilitation of cardiovascular patients. The institute has created science of its own in basic and clinical research and has stood out for the creation of the Mexican School of Cardiology and for its revolutionary contributions to knowledge, in addition to the training of foreign specialists from 47 nations, which, when reintegrating to their homelands, have been the driving force of great social transformations, standing out in their countries as creators of science, leaders of academic, teaching, and assistance action in the field of cardiology, research, and public health.

In this commemoration, it is important to remember the deep bonds and powerful links between Mexican and Spanish cardiology. A unique fact in the history of human solidarity was the arrival of a group of Spanish exiles, scientists, doctors, philosophers, mathematicians, teachers, poets, and artists that the diaspora of migration and exile brought to Mexico. From Professor Chavez’s speech, when he has invested Doctor Honoris Causa by the Salamanca University, let me quote:

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“thus was how Mexico received the benefit of a beam of superior intelligence that Spain was losing and that Mexico was lovingly picking up, offering them a home, opening the borders for them, providing them with passports, laws that would allow them to work, opening the university classrooms and the doors of homes as old friends.”

The National Institute of Cardiology and its founder incorporated a large group of Spanish wise men and teachers to academic life, who spilled their knowledge in the classrooms and chairs, and of researchers that contributed to revitalize the laboratories. We pay reverent tribute to two leading figures of Spanish exile in Mexico, researchers Don Isaac Costero and Don Rafael Méndez, who were pillars of our institution.

The National Institute of Cardiology, as an educational institution, also opened its doors to Latin America, Anglo-Saxon America, and Europe. From Spain, 138 doctors came to the National Institute of Cardiology of Mexico to obtain clinical and research training, and at their return, they spread it throughout all regions of Spain, where they had a prominent role and occupied positions in hospitals and directed cardiology departments in Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Málaga, Oviedo, Pamplona, Santander, Santiago, Salamanca, and Zaragoza, where they laid the foundations of Spanish modern cardiology, a national pride.

It has been in Spain, at the end of the past century and in the dawn of the 21st century, where more than a hundred Mexican cardiologists have received high-specialty training, essentially in Madrid and Barcelona.

The National Institute of Cardiology was the first of its kind and the birthplace of the Inter-American Society of Cardiology. The first and second congresses were

held in Mexico, hosted by the institute and, in 1946, foreign delegates, illustrious European professors, made the proposal to create the International Society of Cardiology. Thus was how the National Institute of Cardiology and the Inter-American Society of Cardiology sealed the link between cardiologists of the world.

In these long and productive 75 years, the Inter-American Society of Cardiology has grouped national cardiology societies in America and has successfully celebrated inter-American congresses that have allowed cardiologists from North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean share their scientific achievements in the fight against cardiovascular disorders with their neighbors and brothers, and at the same time, expand and narrow the ties between America's men and women.

The Mexican Society of Cardiology, which I have the honor of presiding over, has expressed in multiple occasions admiration and affection for both societies of cardiology, for mutual collaboration throughout decades.

Thus, we have arrived to the present time, when Spain and Mexico meet again in the crossroads of history. The ties of the past are tightened with the new bond, facing today the challenge of our time, in the march toward the future, the Spanish Society of Cardiology, the Inter-American Society of Cardiology, and the National Institute of Cardiology of Mexico Ignacio Chávez will keep tight the ties that bind Hispanic America with Spain, which will allow keeping alive the faith in human solidarity.

Let's toast to a long life, fulfilling the dictum of the motto that inspires the mystique of our Institute: love and science at the service of the heart.