

— Editorial

NEW YEAR, NEW EXPECTATIONS, SAME SCENARIO

In a few days, a new year starts and, as always, new ideas, plans and ventures (word that is very much in vogue nowadays), are put into consideration. But sometimes we forget something that, at least for me, is very important, and that is to do a review of the good, the bad and the ugly of the year that ends. Truly, 2021, leaves us things that we, as physicians, cannot and should not discard, especially that which is good. We should work on multiplying that which is positive in the midst of a world that still observes pandemic conditions.

Changes which took place in 2020 were maintained. The absence of congresses and face-to-face events, along with the proliferation of webinars, conferences and online courses, meetings via zoom, streamyard and others have multiplied. This inevitably led to burn out and exhaustion, as we tried to uphold our academic knowledge, which prompted us to reconsider the adoption of such systems. Furthermore, medical laboratories, in the hopes of growing their business, also increased online offers, visits, and information. And, understandably, there came a point of virtual saturation.

However, if we are being honest, we must also acknowledge certain advantages: reasonable virtual academic meetings proved to be more practical than face-to-face ones. They also obviated many logical excuses, such as time and fear caused by the insecurity in many cities, along with the rain, transportation or demanding home care activities, concerning the ladies in particular. These online meetings certainly helped to eliminate excuses, allowing those who really wanted to update their academic expertise to easily engage. Moreover, this type of events allows us to reach more people both nationally and internationally, as well as turning the dream of a regional academic integration into reality.

This 2022, I hope the aforementioned conclusions prompt us to make good use of these advantages. As a well-known philosopher once said, *“To know is a privilege for those who soulfully yearn to learn”*. Maybe, just maybe, some of us who still preserve the desire of knowledge, that knowledge referred to by the old philosopher, will make those dreams come into fruition, dreams which are not only the heritage of the young souls.

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