

Research in Medicine: An Essential Tool

La investigación en medicina: una herramienta indispensable

Among its goals and purposes, the Argentine Society of Cardiology Bylaws states the following: "To promote research in this branch of Medicine, facilitating the presentation and discussion of scientific papers."

Why is research important? While there may be multiple answers to this question, it is because it is a tool for building knowledge. Research allows confirming hypotheses and dispelling myths. It supports training and continuing medical education, and provides key information on realities that helps to design health policies with a regional perspective.

For both experimental and non-experimental research, rigorous stages must be followed to ensure reliable outcomes. This process involves aspects such as background information, and the review of technical issues such as design, sample size, data collection and storage, statistical analysis, etc., as well as bioethical aspects associated to research that are connected to people's rights, privacy and protection.

Committed to both research and bioethics, the Argentine Society of Cardiology (SAC) includes specific areas to ensure excellence in research development, and we are currently taking action to ensure that goals are fully achieved.

In this regard, we have recently achieved a significant advance by joining the REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) consortium, enabling us to migrate from our old computer platform to an electronic data capture software and a workflow methodology to design databases for clinical trial research and translational research, developed by scientists from Vanderbilt University; it will undoubtedly mean

a qualitative insight, since that software not only contributes to better management of the stored information, but also complies with security standards for data protection.

Joining REDCap required an accreditation process to demonstrate the seriousness and responsibility of our Society in doing scientific research, and we are satisfied to have achieved the goals.

Research in the 21st century poses new ethical challenges. With the advent of new technologies, protecting patients' privacy and sensitive information as well as respect for self-determination require increasing efforts. Aware of this responsibility, the SAC created the Research Ethics Committee, whose operation was initially approved by ANMAT. Today, new regulations have been implemented in this regard in the City of Buenos Aires. The Central Research Ethics Committee was created to advise, promote, supervise, and give credit to both public and private Research Ethics Committees.

It is a new challenge for us that demands greater efforts. But with the invaluable work of all the Committee members, I have no doubt we will soon be able to say that we have renewed our credentials in this regard.

The SAC is strongly committed to clinical research and conduction of registries to learn about our reality; we will not give up, and will continue to support their development.

Ana Salvati

President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology