

National Academy of Medicine, one hundred and fifty-four academic year

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Introduction

The incalculable value treasured by the National Academy of Medicine, its enormous influence and repercussion on medical-scientific-epidemiological decision making, lies only and exclusively in the command of knowledge, scientific mind and talent of each and every one of its members, from its foundation in 1864 to the present day. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, in effect: the enormous power the Academy has is nothing but the result of hard, constant and uninterrupted work carried out day by day by academicians with their patients, before their students, at hospitals, in the office, on research laboratories and even at different managerial positions, performing with exemplarity, with the soundness of their knowledge and the creative mind that characterizes them, with a dignified and respectful attitude and an open mind, avid for knowledge, with unquestionable scientific quality, and always willing to struggle for and accept the truth, based on study and logical reasoning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Members of the National Academy of Medicine,
Distinguished Doctor José Narro Robles, Exemplary Academician, Secretary of Health of the Federal Government and personal representative of Mr. President of the Mexican United States,

Distinguished Members of the Board of Honor,
Honorary Academicians,
Dear former Chairmen of the National Academy of Medicine,
Department Directors,
Special and personal guests,
Members of the board of directors:

Just as I have expressed in several occasions, my entry to the National Academy of Medicine (ANM – *Academia Nacional de Medicina*) was determinant in the creation of new goals and in the consolidation of my ideas, thoughts and actions. It opened and paved the way that has brought me to meet and interact with academicians whose talent and privileged and exemplary mind have driven the scientific and humanist development of medicine in our country, and have impacted with certainty and soundness through history on different fields of medical science within national and international settings. The acquired knowledge, shared experiences, facts, circumstances and the enormous richness of ideas that are poured at every meeting of the Academy fortify character, sharpen the senses and stir up the mind. It is precisely therefore that it is my intention, over the two next years, with the support of each and every one of you and of the splendid board of directors I have been appointed to chair, to uplift the actions carried out by the ANM.

I do firmly believe that the acquisition of knowledge, whichever it is, requires a leader with a solid training who brings the scholar closer to the sources of

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knowledge, persuading him/her of its importance and opening his/her thought; by stirring up the interest to know, to investigate; by motivating and guiding towards study, reasoning, creation and command of new elements; by analyzing, breaking down and finding out the composition, integration and utilization of the means in our surrounding. This is why we are going to stress on deep study of medicine with solid molecular bases, as well on pathophysiology and the treatment of disease. I will therefore insist that future candidates to become members of the ANM, rather than be proposed by their own selves, should be strictly selected, proposed and endorsed based on their moral, scientific and professional development quality by academicians themselves, to subsequently be subjected to the opinion of our solid admission committee.

With my most genuine intention, determined decision and an immense desire to reach the goals that with the academicians' support I am decided to accomplish over the next two years, the format of our ordinary meetings has changed, giving way to the expression of intellect, to the exposition of creativity and to the manifestation of experience, surrounded by an environment of wisdom, freedom and respect, which are characteristic of the brilliant minds grouped by the ANM. I am convinced that with explanation and discussion of these proposals in ordinary sessions, as well as with the unity, commitment and fortitude emanating from academicians' talent, the ANM will continue to expand its influence on contemporary medicine scientific evolution. It is this way that the program was integrated for the first time, since November 30, last year, and we expect this year to continue to pick up and support the findings of your investigations, of your proposals and projects, all of them directed to prevent and solve the most important health problems faced by our population, which is the ultimate goal of our daily activity.

I am convinced of the importance feeling proud has in life, to value things with the most elevated consideration and to be worthy of the origin we come from in order to be also worthy of the space we will belong to and of what ultimately we will develop throughout life; this is why, putting forward the idea of uplifting the pride of belonging, we have prepared and want to promote the development and transcendence of the Academy's permanent and transient committees. Thus, just to mention some examples I expose:

- The ANM Committee of Inter-institutional Relations and Diffusion of Knowledge, directed by

Doctor José Ignacio Santos Preciado, has as objectives to intervene as the ANM representative body before the media; to inform on the significance of the ANM and its members before state and federal government institutions; and to establish the ideal contacts between academicians and specific institutions that allow for them to promote their ideas and findings.

- The Committee of Ordinary Sessions Diffusion, directed by Doctor Mario Mandujano Valdés, has the purpose to promote ANM ordinary and extraordinary sessions' attendance; inform on the importance of the addressed subjects; and diffuse the weekly, monthly and annual program through the media.
- The ANM Committee of Transitory Communication with Schools and Faculties of Medicine, directed by Doctor Jaime Mas Oliva, has the purpose to improve the communication between the directors of different medical schools and the ANM; to diffuse among medical students of the country the meaning and importance of our Academy; and to form groups of students to attend and visit our facilities.
- And the Committee of International Relations, directed by Doctor Jaime G. de la Garza Salazar, which was divided into USA and Canada, Central and South America, Europe and the East, has the purpose to establish a harmonic and exchange relationship with different medicine academies of the world; to visit the main venues of academies at the international level, carrying a sample of the potential and achievements of our academicians; and to organize international meetings.

Regardless of the importance of the points I have been mentioning and of the interest I have to promote the *Gaceta Médica de México*, the oldest journal of Latin America, and the clinical-therapeutic bulletin, the most important of my goals in the founding and development of the most modern medical-scientific editorial complex of the ANM, where rather than a paper edition, it will produce duly digitalized electronic documents able to be updated on a daily basis by authors expert on the addressed subjects and to be permanently consulted by the scholar, interested in the different areas of medical and scientific knowledge, and this editorial will therefore have an administration expert group able to run it and to commercialize the works collected there. The development of this idea will be, of course, in a

long-term future, but since now I have asked Doctors Alberto Lifshitz Guinzberg and José Halabe Cherem to plant the seed, to design its structure and to direct the great ANM human medicine digitalized book where, in one way or another, all of its members will participate.

All these plans and projects that in a summarized form I have just exposed have, of course, the support and strength of institutions that through their executives respect and firmly believe in the soundness of our institution and the talent of academicians. Such is the case of the National Council of Science and Technology with Doctors Enrique Cabrero and Julia Tagueña; the National Autonomous University of Mexico with Doctor Enrique Graue Wiechers, former chairman, and Dr. Germán Fajardo Dolci; the PBP with Mr. Secretary of Health; the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS – *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social*) with Professor Mikel Arreola; the Institute of Social Security and Services of State Workers with Mr. José Reyes Baeza Terrazas; just to mention a few, and in no way forgetting the support I have received from the best violinist of Mexico, Maestro Pastor Solís Guerra.

I also want to thank the enormous support I have received from the IMSS authorities, including the Director of Medical Benefits, Dr. José de Jesús Arriaga

Dávila, and very specially, Dr. Víctor Octavio Pérez del Valle Ibarra and Engineer Mr. Mario Goth Retana, since thanks to them, very high quality floor was installed at the auditorium first level lobby, the glass cabinets, carefully redesigned by Doctor Rolando Neri Vela, were modernized, main hall chandeliers were purchased and installed, as well as the plate at the Academy entrance, which is immerse in an authentic garden; works that actually have already been inaugurated by Mr. Secretary of Health and academician, Dr. José Narro Robles.

I would like to finish this intervention by stating that I feel proud of the family that brought me up, of my parents and my siblings; proud of the family that together with my wife and my two daughters we have formed; I feel privileged for having been born in this extraordinary country, and especially in the state of Tamaulipas, which has already given three chairmen to the Academy; and I feel proud and also privileged to belong to the most distinguished group of Mexican scientists and specialist doctors, whose work and contributions have overwhelmingly collaborated to the progress and development of medicine. There is no doubt in my mind that you are the best among the best.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Dr. Armando Mansilla Olivares