Continue and innovate

The taking office of the new SPAVC's Board of Directors, integrated into the Board elected in the electoral General Assembly session of 25 January 2008, is a moment for me to share some thoughts.

I do not need to praise the work conducted throughout these past three years, as it is generally acknowledged as very praiseworthy. However, I must take this moment to acknowledge the Members of the previous Board of Directors, who could not maintain their functions due to respectful reasons, but whose activity, whatever type of activity, highly benefits SPAVC.

When the time comes, they shall be individually acknowledged for the high quality of the provided service.

At this moment, we know that there is still much work that we must continue to do and innovate, and, thus, we appeal to every Member for helping with tasks required for the accomplishment of the purposes acknowledged in the Statutes of SPAVC, and for meeting the several requests from various social statuses.

Stroke was already duly individualised and made visible in order to be understood by the Portuguese population, who has the greatest interest in knowing the rules that will allow changing the current status of stroke as the first cause of death and impairment in Portugal, and a better ranking of Portugal in Europe in that regard. The approach method to Stroke shall respect the model that has been practiced by SPAVC.

Accordingly, I must highlight that nomenclature is essential and shall not differ from the internationally established one, which I have repeatedly been referring in my various communications.

Regarding the problematic approach to SPAVC, continuous efforts shall be maintained in order for the horizontal method to be continued and even innovated, including every person involved in the study of stroke and in the practice related to it.

We appeal namely to Family Medicine Doctors, as they are the most important actors in the primary and secondary prevention of Stroke, and their role in the acute stage shall be an increasingly valuable contribution to allow the rapid multidisciplinary approach of stroke in Units for the acute stage of stroke.

Every specialty related to the cerebrovascular disease, in which stroke is included, shall continue to be considered crucial and appealed for joint work, without which we cannot accomplish the main purpose of SPAVC.

Prevention and treatment imply knowledge; thus, this Board of Directors shall continue to give professional development activities its due high importance and attention.

The Plan of Action proposed to the Electoral Assembly shall be implemented bearing in mind that what we did up to now does not allow us to predict that stroke will stop being the first cause of Death and Impairment in Portugal.

For that goal, I repeat an appeal that I consider crucial: The General Population shall be alert and take action for changing their lifestyle habits, and this can be accomplished by teaching them through the available means how to prevent stroke and be treated early.

Therefore, we will continue our work and will not ever miss an opportunity to innovate.

President of the Board of Directors of SPAVC