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Portuguese Congress of Cardiology 2022 - Back together again!

Welcome to the Portuguese Congress of Cardiology 2022!

The last two years have been extremely challenging for us all, affecting not only our professional life and private life, but also our scientific life. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has changed the way we interact and the way we use online communication platforms. It has also transformed scientific learning tools. Many of these changes were already on the way in, but necessity meant they were put into practice much earlier than anticipated. Now they are very much here to stay. Two years on, there is one certainty that remains, even among technology enthusiasts: we need to be together in person! We need human contact, the sharing of experiences and ideas without there being a screen between us, informal chats over a coffee, a hug from those friends we often only meet once a year at the Portuguese Congress of Cardiology (CPC2022).

2022 is the year we are back together! That is why we chose the slogan, “**Moving Forward Together!**”.

However, we have also learnt from the two committees that came before us (2020 and 2021), and their extraordinary work that there is a positive side to an online event. The tools created for these two congresses worked in an exemplary manner and we will continue to take advantage of them. That is why CPC2022 is a hybrid event, with live transmission of all the sessions to the congress platform. The recordings will also be made available after the event. This will give us the best of both worlds. Being online meant we had international speakers, particularly those from the other side of the Atlantic, who may have found it more difficult to be here in person but were still able to be part of the scientific program.

Tradition has it that the CPC2022 program is built around proposals from the Study Groups and Associations (APIC and APAPE) of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology (SPC). The CPC2022 Scientific Committee took these proposal and created a diverse, comprehensive program. The aim was to incorporate cutting-edge topics from Cardiovascular Medicine in 2022. From heart failure to arrhythmias, valvular disease to cardiac intensive care, cardiology and cardiac surgery to cardiomyopathies, cardiac prevention and rehabilitation to pulmonary artery disease, congenital heart dis-

eases to imaging... all these areas have dedicated sessions at CPC2022!

Environmental issues are at the heart of the current council’s management of the SPC, so we have also incorporated a session on the impact of climate change on cardiovascular diseases. This year we will also take up the Cardiology Refresher Sessions once again. These are designed mainly for colleagues in Internal Medicine, General Practice and Family Medicine and cardiologists who are not involved in hospital activity.

A congress such as the CPC does not just involve the Organizing Committee or the SPC Congress Department but a whole host of colleagues: Those who reviewed abstracts, clinical cases and images, members of the scientific prizes and scholarship committees, and of course, not forgetting the speakers, moderators or discussion panelists.

We owe our deepest gratitude to all of them— you make the Congress what it is! A very special thanks goes out to the abstract reviewers. This year, we decided to change the way abstracts were distributed, asking each reviewer to indicate their area of expertise. We were able to ensure that virtually all abstracts were assessed by seven independent experts. This meant we had a true peer review process for our scientific papers. This work is the topic of an article in the current issue of the Portuguese Journal of Cardiology.

We are also indebted to the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, without which our Congress would not be possible. In these uncertain times, we found partners able and willing to support CPC 2022 and we have no doubt that our relationships come out of this Congress strengthened.

And finally, we would also like to thank all those who participated in our #Everybeatcounts activity. By recording their daily physical exercise, they supported three health non-governmental organizations, fulfilling a role that also has to be ours— that of social solidarity.

I wish you all an excellent Portuguese Congress of Cardiology 2022. It is a pleasure to be together again!

Sérgio Bravo Baptista

President of the Portuguese Congress of Cardiology 2022