¡Hello!

It is my pleasure to address you once again. This time, I would like to tell you about the actions we are planning to continue the great work at PANLAR.

In education, we shall continue implementing the PANLAR Webcast, with a monthly session, on topics of interests for all rheumatologists in America. This is a program that has had huge success and we are certain it shall continue this way.

You may have also seen that we have granted the PANLAR/ACR exchange fellowship and, for the second consecutive year, a rheumatologist in formation from Latin America will visit a center in the United States, and a rheumatologist in formation from the United States will visit a center in Latin America for three weeks. The center chosen on this occasion is located in Colombia.

We are planning additional educational programs through the PANLAR-EDU section of our website, which you will soon find out about.

Our research department is developing new rules for calls to applications for the PANLAR Research Award. These will allow to widen subsidies for research, thereby supporting efforts in Latin America.
We are also close to finishing the outline of the PANLAR Research Unit, to increase, improve and stimulate research in our member countries. The research unit will include a methodology area charged with drafting guides and consensuses. We believe a uniform and consistent methodology is required for guides, recommendations and consensuses.

Likewise, we are proud to inform that recommendations for the treatment of lupus and chikungunya are currently being reviewed by rheumatology journals, and we are confident they will be published soon. The PANLAR position paper regarding biosimilars is close to publication.

After the first patients' congress held in Buenos Aires jointly with the PANLAR congress, each of the country's patient associations has continued to work without pause. Led by Carlo V. Caballero, César Graf and an extraordinary team of leading patients, including María Miller (North), Teresa Martez (Center), Gina Ochoa (Bolivian) and Priscilla Torres (South), together with Cecilia Rodríguez as the PANLAR representative, the Pan-American Network of Patient Associations is being promoted. This task only begins!

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that, starting in 2019 we will hold annual PANLAR congresses and that next year's event will take place in Quito, Ecuador.

We are hard at work with the Ecuadorian Rheumatology Society to make the 2019 Congress a historical milestone for PANLAR.

We will keep in touch! I wish everyone a great month.

Dr. Enrique Soriano.
Presidente de PANLAR