



Success of Joint Symposium with ACC Brings Worldwide Recognition to Brazilian Cardiology

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The success of the joint symposium of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (SBC – *Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia*) and the American College of Cardiology (ACC) in Orlando proved how right SBC was in focusing on the international relationship with peer societies from other countries.

More than 700 participants vied for a seat to attend the event, and many stayed even though there was “standing room only”. ACC itself showed special deference to Brazil by inviting famous names such as professors William Boden and Eric R. Bates as North-American speakers.

More importantly, however: SBC started a trend with the 2008 symposium, and many other countries followed suit; they required and succeeded in holding other symposiums whose design was based on that of the first one created by SBC and ACC. To mention but a few of the countries that followed the trail opened by Brazil, similar events were carried out by Canada, France, India, China, Saudi Arabia, and others.

We, Brazilian cardiologists, are quite aware of the importance of our specialty and know the various centers of excellence in cardiology spread throughout our country. Not until recently, however, did we “open our ports to friendly nations”, to use D. João VI’s words. It was by means of this “opening”, by participating more actively in ACC, in the American Heart Association, in congresses in Portugal, in the European Society of Cardiology, in the World Heart Federation, and in so many other international events that SBC achieved worldwide recognition.

The greatest benefit goes to the Brazilian cardiologist who attains worldwide respect, gains easier access to joint studies with foreign researchers, and is sought after to present original papers in international congresses. The greatest benefit ultimately goes to the Brazilian people who can count on state-of-the-art cardiology, comparable to those most developed in the world.