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## Portuguese Congress of Cardiology 2020

*“Act, Share, Evolve’ is the theme of this year’s Portuguese Congress of Cardiology, which has become the largest scientific event in cardiovascular medicine in Portugal.*

*‘Act, Share, Evolve’ could in fact be the motto of all our Congresses, as it conveys what is expected of a scientific meeting - to share the knowledge that comes from clinical practice or research with the medical community, so that we can improve our understanding and innovate in our approach to a wide range of cardiovascular diseases.*

*Over the years the Congress has had different formats, reflecting the different viewpoints of the organizing committees, as well as a natural evolution that leads such meetings to develop in different ways.*

*We decided on a different format for the Congress this year, in order to make it easier for all participants to meet and mingle. The rooms in which the scientific sessions are held will be nearer to each other, most in the Algarve Congress Centre, which is where the medical industry’s exhibitions will also be set up.*

*As a result of this reorganization of the space used by the 2020 Congress, we have also had to restructure the scientific programme.”*

Thus began this address when the first draft was written in February, when no-one could have imagined the radical changes that were about to impact the 2020 Congress. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic it has had to be rescheduled for November and, while initially planned to follow a hybrid model, is now to be held in virtual form.

So, welcome to the first virtual Portuguese Congress of Cardiology!

The Congress will now run from 6 to 8 November, with one studio in Porto and two in Lisbon, and virtual conference rooms broadcasting an eclectic programme live.

Sessions entitled “The Essentials of ...” will cover topics of interest to the majority of participants, whether they are cardiologists, internists, or general practitioners, such as hypertension, dyslipidemia and heart failure, while the “Core Curriculum” sessions will address subjects of particular relevance for a more specific audience. The “Hot Topics” and “Controversies” sessions of previous Congresses will continue, to be joined by “Rapid Fire” sessions character-

ized by brief presentations that will allow multiple viewpoints to be heard on a particular theme.

As in previous years, there will be a significant number of contributions from non-Portuguese speakers, which will undoubtedly enrich our knowledge.

A central aspect of the Congress is the presentation of original research by Portuguese investigators, and this year, yet again, a record number of works have been submitted: 587 abstracts of free communications and 186 case reports and images. These were evaluated by dozens of reviewers, to whom we extend heartfelt thanks on behalf of the 2020 Congress and the Portuguese Society of Cardiology.

We believe we have succeeded in creating an exciting programme for all those involved throughout the three days of the Congress.

We would like to express our gratitude to the many people and bodies that have been involved in this project and with whom we have worked in partnership over the course of the year. We also offer our thanks to all of the entities who help set up and publicize the Congress, including the pharmaceutical and medical device and equipment industries, and to all the individuals who every year show their support by participating in the Congress, as well as to all our colleagues who in different ways play an active part in it. I would like to personally thank the Board of the Portuguese Society of Cardiology, the Society’s Congress Department, and the Organizing Committee and Scientific Committee of the Congress itself.

The Portuguese Congress of Cardiology is an essential event in the cardiovascular field in Portugal, one that it is fair to say is a highlight of the year for many of us - physicians, nurses, and technicians involved in the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease.

For the Organizing Committee of the 2020 Congress this has certainly been a memorable year, and this year’s event will surely be an unforgettable one. Our ambition is that it will also be unforgettable for Portuguese cardiology as a whole.

**Brenda Moura**

President of the 2020 Portuguese Congress of Cardiology