
Letters to the Editor

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BJCVS

Dear Gerald:

Domingo Braile is one of the leaders in Brazil, has done a tremendous job with the Brazilian Journal of CT Surgery, has been innovative and creative, and has brought pride to our society and Brazil in general.

Your letter is a reflection of my feelings towards a great friend.

Regards

Tomas Salerno, USA

Dear Domingo,

I spoke with Tomas Salerno yesterday, and he advised me of your fine progress.

As one of your friends and admirers, I am so delighted that good results has thus far occurred. You are a remarkable person, whose ingenuity and creativity is a special treat to all of your colleagues.

Tomas told me of the spectacular job you have done with the Brazilian Journal.

I was not surprised, since I view this achievement is simply another of the fine tasks you have always accomplished before and will now continue to give to all of us.

Please, do not think this compliment is a request for writing a paper, as my commitments are overflowing. However, inability to contribute to one area does not interfere

with well earned congratulations to a dear friend.

My best wishes to your family, and I hope we can be together in the future.

Gerry Buckberg, USA

Inspiration

A text written by my cousin Zuenir Ventura about a meeting with Villas Boas Correa, my eminent patient, debated themes of current Brazilian politics revealing "2005 to be the year in which hope has ended".

From this meeting Zuenir wrote articles on the website 'nomínimo.com.br', where he referred to the revascularization surgery of Villas Boas and mentioned my name and my town, Nova Friburgo, emphasizing the importance of a service located in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro State that has become a reference in Cardiology.

Dr. Braile, it is important for you to know that your work in São José do Rio Preto inspired and encouraged many surgeons throughout Brazil. I insist on mentioning particularly those with whom I have worked and that were responsible for the success of my present staff: Drs. João Jazbik Neto and Ronaldo Duchesi Fontes, pioneers of heart surgery in Mato Grosso do Sul and Mato Grosso, respectively.

It is also important to emphasize that the BSCVS, thanks to its actions together with the Ministry of Health, is directly and indirectly responsible for the interiorization of high

complexity services in Cardiology, most of which have results similar to the big centers.

I would like to share the success of this enterprise with all my colleagues of the BSCVS, and to stress that it is only possible to overcome obstacles with the support of those with great professional experience, together with our friends and families. I would like to cite the members of my surgical and anesthesia teams, since the results obtained are directly related to their work with the patients: Drs. Paulo César de Souza Santos, Alexandre Cruz, Alexandre Deslandes, Marcelo Murata, Chamberlain Noé, Demetrius Campanatti and Kuo Ri Pan. I would also like to emphasize the importance of Hospital São Lucas and its directorate that has always helped and given support to the initiatives of the team and always invested in the purchase of the most modern materials and equipment and for these reasons were also responsible for the results obtained.

Our Service attends 12 towns in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro, performing 26 surgeries monthly, 90% of

which are paid for by the government healthcare plan (SUS). Nowadays, the number of surgeries surpasses 1600 with cardiopulmonary bypass. Among the other statistics, in the year of 2004, the overall mortality rate was 0.8% and the major co-morbidity was atrial fibrillation in the postoperative period of myocardial revascularization. Approximately 96% of the patients remain less than 24 hours in the ICU and 95% are released from hospital on the 4th postoperative day. These numbers make us proud and give us credibility in respect to the public opinion, results we obstinately pursue and that soon will be submitted to the BJCVS for publication. These lines were written with the encouragement of Dr. Alexandre Brick, who requested me to send the text to the BJCVS. I seize the opportunity to express our gratitude at seeing him reestablished in his activities in the journal and our society. I hope that God and his angels will always keep him strong.

Gustavo José Ventura Couto, Nova Friburgo, RJ.