



Alberto C. Taquini and the 75th Anniversary of the Discovery of Angiotensin 70th Anniversary of the Instituto de Investigaciones Cardiológicas foundation

by José Milei et al

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Past events do not last, unless they are deliberately repeated to future generations. In this book, José Milei et al, accomplish the double task of recalling the birth of an important Argentine scientific institution, and showing that its mission continues to be strengthened throughout the years. The book tells us about the history of the Instituto de Investigaciones Cardiológicas (ININCA) since its foundation by Dr. Alberto C. Taquini in 1940, as well as the biography of its creator and his leading role in the discovery of angiotensin. However, the book can also be considered a scientific book, though not of methodological science but that of its expectations, spirits and achievements. Through its stories, it is clear how ideas were materialized, how dreams that kept scientists awake became accomplishments.

The variety of the chapters and co-authors prevents me from being comprehensive in this summary, particularly because it is a book that should be read starting from the prologues. Alberto C. Taquini's brilliant life and career as researcher, teacher, visionary and founder of ININCA is extensively reconstructed in Chapters I to VII. Particularly, a historical episode narrated in Chapter VIII about Taquini's participation as physician of María Eva Duarte de Perón shows the most honorable and ethical aspects of his personality. But in order to be a teacher, Taquini had first to be disciple, which he was, under the guidance of Bernardo Houssay (Chapter X). This book also includes a brief unpublished autobiography, handwritten by Dr. Taquini, found by Milei in his old

desk at ININCA (pages 139 to 147). Nothing depicts a person better than the memories of his disciples. His wise advice, exceptional judgment and discipline were the most valued aspects of his personality (Chapter XI).

Although Dr. Taquini is the main character of the book, the memorable milestone for Argentine science is the discovery of angiotensin. Thus, reflections on the role of Braun Menéndez, Fasciolo, Houssay, Leloir, Muñoz, and Taquini -the six angiotensin researchers-included in Chapter IX are welcome, as well as the two reproductions worth reading -one about the role on this finding by Braun Menéndez (pages 153 to 164), written by Taquini, and the other about the history of the renin-angiotensin system, published in the *Journal of Hypertension* in 2001 (pages 165 to 176).

The last chapter of the book covers the current activities at ININCA. Finally, it should be pointed out that the high-quality printing of this book allowed for the reproduction of a very interesting series of good quality historical photos.

The present edition of this book is a tribute that considers memory is the best gesture of courtesy and justice we can have with those who preceded us. It is a text that narrates the history that was and that which tries to be again. Because, somehow, the history of science is no more than the biography of the great men who made it.

Raúl A. Borracci ^{MTSAC}