

Dear readers:

The year 2020 has brought us a severe pandemic derived from the COVID-19. Until now we had thought that this situation we are living, was rather, the script of a science fiction movie. However, as we have been able to prove often, sometimes (more than we would like to admit), reality surpasses fiction; and that is what has happened and is happening in these complicated months.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led us to extreme situations: collapse of health systems, confinement at home to avoid the spreading of the virus, switching from face-to-face to virtual teaching, shutdown of producing companies, closing of borders, etc.

This paralysis caused by the confinement has revealed what is and what is not necessary for the functioning of a society. Overall, this medical crisis, with its social and economic impacts, has revealed that there are many dispensable things, and other that are absolutely essential. The health systems have been overwhelmed in many countries, the action of security bodies was not able to guarantee the security of people; Governments had to take difficult measures.

Ultimately, this virus has challenged the whole planet, with greater or lesser intensity, but we have learned much from this situation. We have learned to appreciate the professionalism and vocation of the health personnel. We have learned to adapt. We have learned to perform our professional activities through videoconference, to the extent possible. We have learned that the security of our society is based on strict confinement measures. We have learned to «stay at home», without being able to hug and interact with our most loved ones, friends and colleagues. We have learned that a virus, such as many

we face every day, can pose a serious threat to humanity. And this is where an additional aspect we have learned comes in.

We have learned to need and demand R+D to overcome this crisis. Practically from the start of the pandemic, collaboration and research was requested in different ambits. From the first day, work was already under way in the development, in the months to come, of a possible vaccine that prevents this pandemic. From the health system it was requested support to the technological, corporate and university sectors, with ideas and developments for manufacturing improvised respirators, protection systems, disinfection systems, action protocols, etc.

All this has a common denominator: investment in R+D. Without R+D (and transfer) we are condemned to not evolving and not being able to face other situations that the future may bring.

The commitment of INGENIUS with science, technology and the generation of innovative ideas, has always been very strong. Along these months INGENIUS has continued its activity which is, definitely, making available to the society the knowledge in the ambit of science, technology and engineering that enable developing technologic solutions in moments of crisis, and contribute to the sustainable development of our society. It is true that R+D is absolutely necessary, but it is similarly true that the technology transfer is also important, because it enables to apply R+D in products and services useful and necessary for our society. Perhaps we still do not know what is not necessary, but what has become evident, is what we certainly need: investment in research, development and transfer to the society and there, INGENIUS reaffirms once again its strong commitment to the service of the international scientific community.

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