

Disseminating knowledge, teaching and convincing the sports movement at all levels of the well-foundedness of the principles of Olympism in terms of sport and health are today the only effective means of combating doping. It is only by establishing a climate of information for the sports movement, from the senior administrators to the players and even the supporters, that we can create the momentum for a new current of ideas that will lead to the conviction that, anyone who resorts to doping or helps an athlete to dope is not a magician conjuring sporting success, but an assassin of sport, and in some cases a real murderer.

Olympism, where does your victory lie? Quite simply, in the wisdom of the athletes praised and mourned by so many philosophers. The war against doping is underway, and it must be won: the peace and serenity of the Olympic Movement depend upon it. The contribution of Olympic Solidarity and the IOC Medical Commission is essential in this respect: the virtually planet-wide network of information and courses set up through their joint actions is a major asset that should be extended and broadened so that, in addition to providing theoretical and practical assistance in medical matters and coaching science, these courses can become an

“Olympic university” with various fields of study, and with the aim of bringing the actors of sport closer to the Olympic ideals of Pierre de Coubertin.

The International Olympic Committee is committing every effort to the fight against doping, because it is convinced that the athlete and the Olympic Movement must shine all the more brightly when the sun rises on the third millennium.

*Professor, Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium); member of the IOC Medical Commission and of the European Olympic Committees (EOC).

News flash

Argentina

At the ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the NOC, Antonio Rodriguez, IOC member and NOC president, presented the Olympic Order to Arturo Canovi (right) in recognition of his contribution to sports development and his dedication to the Olympic cause. After founding the Argentine Canoeing Federation in 1971, he became federation president in 1978. For many years an international judge, Canovi is also an honorary member of the International Canoe Federation.

