

## ‘I feel like I found the missing piece’

### Professor Song Sol Carola, pharmacologist from Argentina and participant in 2025 Future Leaders Conference

“From the moment I arrived at the airport, it was as if I had found the missing piece again,” Dr. Song Sol Carola (27), a professor of pharmacology at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, said in an interview with Yonhap News about her feelings while attending the 2025 Future Leaders Conference held at the Songdo Convensia in Incheon from May 27-30. She described the special feeling of the doubly meaningful aspects of visiting Korea for the first time and also meeting with next-generation Korean leaders from around the world. Song, the youngest of the 62 participants, also gave a speech on behalf of the next-generation participants at the opening ceremony of this event.

Song grew up learning Korean traditions at home while living Argentinian culture in public. This background naturally formed a bicultural identity in her and is deeply embedded in her life as a medical professional and educator.

#### ‘My bicultural identity and family have been great strength to me’

“Maintaining a connection with Korea has never been easy, but my bicultural identity, family and the support of the Korean community in Argentina have provided me with great strength,” Song said. “This visit to my home country will be a turning point for me to truly understand and accept my identity as a Korean.”

She added that it was a very meaningful experience to have the opportunity to interact with Korean experts from around the world through this conference, share diverse perspectives and establish a foundation for long-term cooperation.

Song has a wide range of clinical experience, academic research and international exchange experience. She completed her residency in the Department of Cardiology and Department of Gastroenterology at the Cleveland Clinic in the United States and has been actively involved in the global health care field, including volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr. Song Sol Carola (27), professor of pharmacology at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina

She presented a clear vision for the government's role in creating the next-generation network.

“The government can strengthen the global Korean network by supporting academic programs, mentoring platforms and medical research collaborations that transcend national borders,” she said. “We live in an era where digital technology allows us to connect with each other anywhere in the world.”

In particular, Song suggested the possibility of cooperation with Korea in the medical field.

“I want to share my clinical knowledge and research experience, participate in health education programs, and support innovation in public health and patient care, especially targeting the Korean community and Latin American communities.

“As a Korean, I feel great pride when I see the global recognition of Korea in the field of health care, its focus on education and its achievement of growth through steady efforts,” she said, adding that cooperation with medical professionals from around the world is the central axis of her life. “The spirit of perseverance and warm consideration is the image of a Korean that I want to practice in my daily life.” 🇰🇷