



Kos Founding Declaration Global Hellenic Medical Network Founding Forum (June 10th, 2007)

PREFACE:

The Global Doctors Network Founding Forum was held at Kos between the 7th and the 10th of June under the auspice of the Hellenic Ministry of Health.

In the Era of Globalization, Hellenism contemplates the Historic Horizon with optimism, vigor and confidence since a wide and well developed global network of distinguished Hellenes exists in all Disciplines including Art , Science, Business and Politics.

In the front line, Greek Medical Doctors from all over the world who have been credited for their excellence in Research and in applied Medical Science comprise a remarkable group that reflects the entity of Modern Greece. They also compel Global Hellenism to assume its own responsibilities as pertaining to the collaboration among the Doctors of Diaspora themselves and among them and the Greek and Cypriot States.

The Hellenic Republic Minister of Health Dimitrios Avramopoulos has taken the initiative to bring together these Doctors at Kos, the homeland of Hippocrates and in liaison with the Government of Cyprus have established the Global Hellenic Medical Network. Thus, the collaboration among the Helladic and Cypriot Scientists will be enhanced.

The Greek Doctors from around the world, the successors of Hippocrates, Asclepius, and recently of George Papanicolaou and other Medical Science moguls, either famous or unknown, lay the foundations of a new Era and forge, with this declaration, the bonds of unity and solidarity, therefore, contributing to an enhanced profile of the modern Hellenism around the globe.

From this perspective, the Greek Doctors from all over the world demonstrate their belief and their determination in terms of setting goals and general rules of organization and creating administrative structures.

Goals of the Network

1. Communication among the network's doctors regarding the pursuit of Hellenic Medical Values in the global medical system.
 - Hippocratic Oath
 - History of Medicine
 - Medical Ethics
 - Research Ethics
 - Academic Excellence

- Medical Care
 - Humanism and
 - Social Solidarity
2. Collaboration with respective Greek authorities, public or private, conducting administrative, academic and research oriented activities in Greece and Cyprus.
 3. Acting at the suggestion of the Greek Minister of Health, establishment of an International Prize for Excellence in Medical Research in memory of Dr. George Papanicolaou. This will be awarded by the President of either the Hellenic or the Cypriot Republic in Greece or Cyprus respectively every other year within the framework of the Global Hellenic Medical Network Forum. The first Forum that will host the Prize ceremony will be held in Cyprus during the summer of 2008.
 4. Collaborating with Greek and Cypriot authorities, for the improvement of the methods regarding the development and advancement of the hospital infrastructure as well as the establishment of joint programs of continuing medical education, periodical laboratory modernization, linkage of the hospitals and clinics through the Internet and general guideline implementation regarding diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms for more effective medical care and enhancement of the healthcare systems.
 5. Study of the meaning of Globalization regarding the incidence and spread of infectious diseases and chronic illnesses, which pose a risk to the Public Health, and the formation of modern prevention strategies.
 6. Collaboration with international Health Organizations and proper response to the humanistic, social and academic needs of the Diaspora Communities.

Organizational Structures

1. The International Council of the Network will be formed, which will coordinate the activities of the Forum. In the Council, presidents of local medical societies, federations and associations have been represented as well as delegates representing similar authorities from Greece and Cyprus. Honoris Causa, the World Council of Hellenes Abroad will be represented as well.

The number of the members will be determined by the Presidents of the Medical Societies who participated in the Kos Founding Forum. The Medical Societies are the following:

- Hellenic Medical Society of New York,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Australia, Asia,
- Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America,
- Hellenic American Medical & Dental Society of Southern California,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Pennsylvania,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Quebec, Canada,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Toronto, Canada,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Chicago,
- Hellenic Medical Society of New Jersey,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Texas,
- Hellenic Medical Society of United Kingdom,
- Hellenic Medical Society of Austria,
- Hellenic American Medical & Dental Society of New England,
- Hellenic Scientists Society of Renania-Westphalia
- World Hellenic BioMedical Association (WHBA)

2. Introduction of an Executive Board of the Global Hellenic Medical Network composed of eleven members. The temporary Executive Committee will be composed of the following:

- George Dangas (New York),
- Stelios Vogiatzis (Australia),
- Evangelia – Lila Amirali (Quebec, Canada),
- Dennis Karalis (Chicago),
- Spyros Mezitis (Federation of N. America),
- Maria Michas (Texas),
- Olga Sarantopoulos (Austria - SAE),
- George Geroulakos (UK),
- Zois Vrettos (Germany),
- Gabriel Panayi (W.H.B.A.) in absence.

The name of the eleventh member will be filled at a later time point.

The representative members of the Executive Board will be designated by the Presidents of the Founding Medical Associations of this Forum.

The plan of action of the two organizational bodies described above will be announced and approved by the Forum every two years.

A dedicated Executive Secretariat will be formed under the direction of the Board and the auspice of the Ministry of Health.

Actions

1. Circulation of a Medical Newsletter electronically around the world.
2. Consultation with the academic and administrative authorities of Greece and Cyprus regarding the enhancement of the competitive allocation of European Union medical research grants.
3. Improvement of the cooperation for Bio-Medical Research among Researchers from Greece, Cyprus or the Diaspora on a constant basis through the formation of an institutional framework and the elaboration of incentives for the development of new research projects.
4. Communication with medical student associations from around the world aiming to the formation of global networks for exchange of knowledge and know-how.
5. Fostering of post-graduate Continuing Medical Education for physicians in Greece including exchange programs.
6. Utilization of the talents of isolated scientists within the Greek Global Network through medical associations.
7. Establishment of an ongoing collaboration and communication with the Hellenic Health Council aiming at the implementation of a long-term relationship.

The Greek Doctors abroad and the founding members of this Forum would like to acknowledge the Greek Government for the successful organization of the Global Medical Network Founding Forum held in Kos.

They welcome the initiative of the Greek Minister of Health, Mr. Dimitrios Avramopoulos and the immediate response of the Cypriot Minister of Health, Mr. Charis Charalambous, who they pronounce as lifetime HONORARY FELLOWS of the Global Hellenic Medical Network.

They enounce that with today's Founding Act, a new chapter is forming for the Ecumenical Hellenism and the Greeks of the Diaspora, for the cooperation and promotion of the goals of the Global Hellenic Community.