



World Hellenic Biomedical News

January 2011



Dr. Nikandros Bouras

*Establishment & Evolution
of the WHBA*



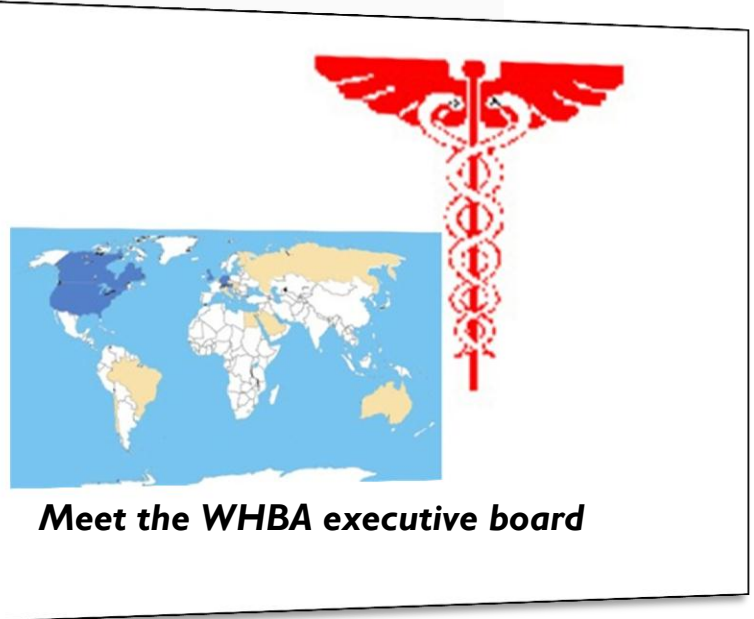
*World
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**WHBA & The University of
Chicago Conference**
**“Contemporary Concepts in
Cardiology” - Chicago**

Dr. Jack Szostak

*Input and advice from a
Nobel laureate for success
in Biomedical Science*



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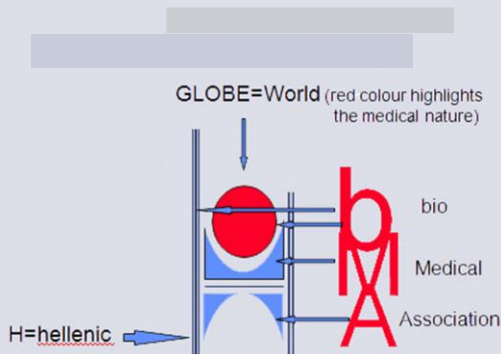
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Explanation of the logo



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Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA

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Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia

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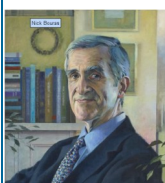


World Hellenic Biomedical Association

World Hellenic
Biomedical News

Dr Nikandros Bouras, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry and Director of Maudsley International, discusses about the establishment of the Association

Interview to Dr Christos Sideras



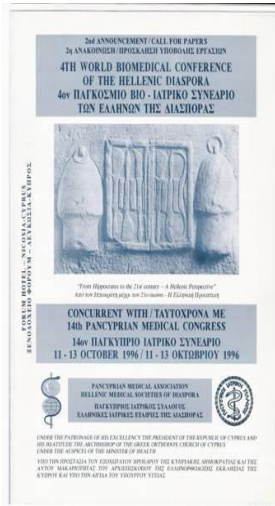
When was the first idea for the creation of WHBA put forward?

The first idea was put forward in 1988, following the establishment and success of the Hellenic Medical Society of the United Kingdom in London. There was a lot of enthusiasm and at the same time we were getting reports that there were other Hellenic Medical Societies around the world. In particular, in New York, we knew that the medical society there was very large and well established. We discussed it amongst ourselves in London and we decided that it would be a good idea for us to approach the New York Hellenic Medical Society and talk to them about the possibility of creating a world association, which would try to incorporate all the other societies. At the same time we also started to hear that there were societies in other parts of the United States, such as Boston, Chicago and another one in California. We also heard that there was a group in Melbourne and, in fact, one of our members, a medical student at the time, went to Melbourne for his electives and contacted the then president of the Hellenic Medical Society. He was very well received by the president and the other members and contacted us back to join in the pending new world association.

Later that year, I went to New York for professional reasons and arranged to contact members of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York. I met first with Dr Bousvaros, and then Dr Vasilas. They were both very hospitable and arranged to meet with other colleagues in Dr Vasilas' house. Also, my friend and contemporary in Athens Medical School, Dr Paul Kymissis, child psychiatrist, organised a large meeting in his house where there were several members of the New York Hellenic Medical Society. I put forward in both gatherings the idea of all of us forming one Society world-wide, which was received with a lot of interest. At that time, the Hellenic Medical Society of New York was trying to bring together the other Hellenic Medical Societies existing in the United States. This idea, however, was not progressing very well and the consensus was that a joint forum around the world might be a viable alternative.

When next summer I went to Greece to the island of Paros, a place I have been going regularly for 40 years, during one of my summer holidays, I discussed this idea with my friend, Lambis Proukakis, the late professor of medical physics in Athens and Dr Batrinos, professor of endocrinology, in Athens also. They both thought it was an interesting idea but it would need a lot of work to be materialised. In summer holidays in the Greek islands you can also meet people from other parts of Greece and you can have nice discussions and exchange ideas, in addition to enjoying your holiday! The same evening, we all had dinner together with another regular holidaymaker to Paros, Tzannis Tzanetakis, who later became prime minister of Greece. I tried the idea with him, he also liked it and he thought that it had a lot of potential in bringing together a sizeable part of the Greek Diaspora.

I talked to my colleagues in the Hellenic Medical Society back in London and to those in New York who asked me to try to do whatever was possible to get this idea off the ground. The most difficult problem was funding. How we were going to fund such a venture? Lambis Proukakis brought me in contact with Theodoros Mountokalakis, who was then the president of the Athens Medical Society. The Athens Medical Society used to have - and still has - an annual medical conference in Athens, which is called 'Πανελλήνιο Ιατρικό Συνέδριο', Panhellenic Medical Conference. Next year on my way back to London from Paros, I stopped in Athens for a few hours to change flight. I had arranged to see Theodoros Mountokalakis in his apartment. It was Sunday lunchtime in a very hot late August day! When I put the idea to him he came up with the suggestion that we could launch it as a satellite symposium at the next Panhellenic Medical Conference in Athens. That was the easiest way to overcome the problem of funding as we could include our meeting within the Panhellenic Medical Congress. I thought it was a brilliant idea, because otherwise we would not be able to afford a separate meeting. In 1990 after a lot of preparation, by several of us in various parts of the World, the First World Hellenic Biomedical Congress took place in Athens as an extension of one day of the Panhellenic Medical Congress.



The preparation was horrifying, as you can imagine. There was no funding and everything had to be done by us voluntary. The logistics were very difficult as there was no email yet and telephone calls were expensive. We had to rely on writing letters and posting them via the post office. Occasionally we used fax, which had just started! The organising team worked very hard and certainly the colleagues from the Athens Medical Society were very kind and extremely accommodating to undertake such a responsibility. I can tell you now Dr Sideras, that I remember the day when I woke up to fly to Athens for the Conference and suddenly I had this thought, and I said, how am I to know, that all the people who said they will be there, are really coming and I'm not going to Greece on my own, because I hardly knew the people who had subscribed to come, who agreed to give lectures, who had agreed to organise sessions and so on. The expectation by the Athens Medical Society was obviously very high! The Conference was very successful and we had a packed audience at the Athens Caravel Hotel at the opening ceremony and there was a lot of enthusiasm.

I will mention a small anecdote. I arrived in Athens the day the Panhellenic Medical Conference started. Our Conference was scheduled at the end, in 2 days. It was late afternoon of the first day of the Panhellenic Medical Conference and I noticed a television crew arriving from the national television station, as well as a few other professional photographers. When I asked them what they were doing there and they replied that they were expecting the arrival of the then Deputy Prime Minister Tzannis Tzanetakis for the opening of the Conference of the Greek Doctors of Diaspora, I was surprised and said but that it would be in 2 days time. They insisted that it was on that day and this is what they had officially been informed. I was horrified that somehow there was a mix-up and the Deputy Prime Minister might arrive by mistake in a few minutes! I thought that I might have caused a mix-up, as I had personally talked to the Deputy Prime Minister on my arrival in Athens reminding him of our conversation in Paros and requesting to arrange for a governmental official to attend the opening ceremony. He had replied that he will come himself and because that was arranged over the telephone with him, without the involvement of his office, I thought that probably there was a mix-up. By coincidence a high official of the Ministry of Press who used to work in London had come to see me. So, I asked him to ring the Ministry and see if the car with the Deputy Prime Minister was on its way to Caravel Hotel to turn it back. Fortunately the mix-up was by the television crew instead and not me!

We had several Ambassadors from other Countries, including Mr Sotirchos, then the Ambassador of the USA, and several other dignitaries attending the opening ceremony. The Greek poet Nikiforos Vrettakos gave the keynote speech. At the closing ceremony we had a superb talk by Spyros Retsas on Medicine and the Olympic Games of Antiquity. That was the start of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association in 1990. Following the success of the first Conference the overwhelming view of all colleagues from the Diaspora and Athens was to repeat it every year. I had serious reservations, knowing well what organisation such a commitment involved and agreed to consider having it bi-annually. We have had 8 World Congresses during the 20 years of the life of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association and several other joint meetings. The last one was a joint Conference in London with the opportunity of the 25th anniversary of the Hellenic Medical Society of the United Kingdom.

That's brilliant. I wonder how did you manage to keep the impetus in-between the meetings and how were the connections between the members of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association maintained?

This is due to the commitment of colleagues who participated in the organising and the executive committees to continue to work together. One of the first actions we managed was to set up a database with the names of a few thousand doctors and scientists of biological sciences, with whom we corresponded regularly. The second action was that, soon after the first Athens conference, we published the World Hellenic BioMedical Bulletin, which lasted for a few years, and helped to maintain the links between us.

I think about all these wonderful stories that have brought us where we are now and I wonder, what are your dreams, your hopes, for the World Hellenic Biomedical Association?

Well, I would very much like to see this effort continue. I would very much like to see the World Hellenic Biomedical Association fulfilling the purpose and the role we had thought of. To bring together, as I hope will happen one day, the wealth of the biomedical world of Hellenic origin who is scattered around the world. There are thousands of biomedical colleagues with brilliant careers all over the world and, if they all come together under one umbrella, it will be a great asset for them individually and for Greece as a whole. Several collaborations have taken place during the 20 years of the existence of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association including research projects, teaching and training that contributed to enhance careers and friendship. Colleagues have been able to present debate and discuss their work at the highest standards. Certainly, in the early 1990s, there was not so much travelling as we do today when we travel so easily around the world. Many colleagues have been making links with colleagues in Greece and other parts of the world, for joint scientific work, taking advantage of many scientific opportunities. A few people made their personal lives as they happened to meet the right person through our activities and be married.

That sounds very interesting. It is clear that throughout there's been a very strong aspect on the scientific knowledge, together with the social aspect, which is certainly very important as you very rightly note, for developing these kind of strong links.

Thank you very much Professor Bouras for talking to us about the origins of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association. History can teach us very much and hopefully give us some thoughts about the future also. Thank you so much for all you have done.

η εφημεριδα του συνεδριου



ΑΦΙΕΡΩΜΑ ΣΤΟ 1ο ΠΑΓΚΟΣΜΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΔΙΑΣΠΟΡΑΣ

ΕΤΟΣ 11 • ΦΥΛΛΟ 4

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 12 ΜΑΪΟΥ 1990

Όπως δήλωσε στην «Ε.Τ.Σ» ο Πρόεδρος της Οργανωτικής Επιτροπής Νίκανδρος Μπούρας

ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ

ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗΣ ΤΟ 1ο ΠΑΓΚΟΣΜΙΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΓΙΑΤΡΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΔΙΑΣΠΟΡΑΣ

Ελληνες γιατροί της διασποράς συναντώνται αύριο φιλοξενοούμενοι της Ιατρικής Εταιρείας

Το 11ο Παγκόσμιο Ιατρικό Συνέδριο είναι φέτος ιδιαίτερα σημαντικό. Οι μόνοι συνέχισαν την παράδοση της υιοθεσίας επιστημονικής δράσης και του μεγάλου επιπέδου επιστημονικών εργασιών που παρουσιάζονται σ' αυτό, αλλά «πυκνώνονται» με ένα πρωτότυπο μετασυνεδριακό γεγονός το 1ο Παγκόσμιο Συνέδριο Ελλήνων Ιατρών της Διασποράς.

«Η παρουσία Ελλήνων ιατρών σε πανεπιστήμια φίλης ερευνητικά κέντρα και νοσοκομεία του εξωτερικού, είναι έντονα αισθητή και δυναμική. Υπάρχουν δύο κατηγορίες Ελλήνων ιατρών της διασποράς: Εκείνοι που έφυγαν

σαν πρώτες πρακτικές στήριξη ή συγγένευσή όσο γίνεται περισσότερο» θεατώντων «αυθεντών ιατρών και όσο προχωρούσε η διαδικασία αυτή τόσο εδραίωνον η πεποίθησή μας, ότι υπάρχουν Έλληνες επιστήμονες σε όλα τα μέρη και πάνω εις Γης, που τα επιστημονικά τους ενδιαφέροντα καλύπτουν κάθε τμήμα των βιοϊατρικών επιστημών.

Ακολούθησαν συνομιλίες και συνενώσεις με την Ιατρική Εταιρεία Αθηνών, για την εκδίωξη τεχνικών δυσκολιών και για τον καθορισμό του προγράμματος του Συνεδρίου. Αποφασίστηκε η συνάντησή να γίνει στην



Καρδιάτικος μέλος της Οργανωτικής

επιτροπής, μετά την επίσημη του ιστορία Σπύρου Ρέισα, που θα είναι σχετικά με το επίκαιρο θέμα των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων.

Με αναμνηστικά αναμνηστικά τόσο τα αποτελέσματα των επιστημονικών εργασιών του Συνεδρίου σε ερωτηματολόγιο του Ιατρού ή Οργανωτική Επιτροπή, όσο και το συμπέρασμα που θα προκύψει από την ανοιχτή συζήτηση των Κοινοτήτων 12 απόγευμα για τους στόχους του 2ου Παγκόσμιου Συνεδρίου Ελλήνων Ιατρών της Διασποράς. Πάντως, από ανεπιτημας συζητήσεις των συνέδριων, η ιδέα του να συνεταθούν οι συναντήσεις αυτές

και στην περίπτωση του Συνεδρίου αυτού αποδείχθηκε αυτό που έχει λεχθεί από τον Carl Sauerlin, ότι «είναι δυνατόν να συμβεί, ότι πρώτα δεν ξεκινάει από ένα άναφορ, φτάνει με σκορδινιά, ότι η μορφή αυτή επικοινωνίας των Ελλήνων ιατρών πρέπει να συνεχιστεί, κάθε φορά με νέες ιδέες, στόχους και προβλεπόμενα, με μοναδικό τελικό σκοπό όπως στο κέντρο όλων αυτών των ιστοριών δραστηριοτήτων είναι η επίσημη συνάντησή μας, και όχι οι κερτίμαρες φιλοδοξίες. Με την ευχή αυτή η Οργανωτική Επιτροπή του Συνεδρίου, παραδίδει στην κρίση σας τη συλλογική αυτή εργασία.



Left: Dr Szostak ; Right: Dr Iliopoulos

* Dr Dimitrios Iliopoulos is Assistant Professor of Pathology, Dept of Cancer Immunology & AIDS, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School

Jack W. Szostak, Ph.D.: input and advices from a Nobel prize winner for success in Biomedical Science

*Interview by Dimitrios Iliopoulos, Ph.D.**

Note from the Editor: This is a very interesting interview given by Dr Jack W. Szostak, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School. Dr Szostak was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, along with Drs. Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Carol W. Greider, "for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase". In his discussion with Dr Dimitris Iliopoulos, Dr Szostak talks about his past and present research interests and gives valuable advices to young scientists about how to proceed to fulfill their dreams. World Hellenic Biomedical News is extremely thankful to Dr Szostak for this interview.

For a full academic profile of Dr Szostak, please refer to <http://www.hms.harvard.edu/dms/bbs/fac/szostak.html> and http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/2009/szostak.html

DI: Can you describe briefly the work that the prize was awarded for?

JWS: This was work that was done quite a long time ago, starting 30 years ago, and is basically for figuring out how the ends of chromosomes—telomeres—are, what their structure is, and how they are maintained. Our experiments, in collaboration with Liz Blackburn lab, led to the hypothesis that those especial enzymes—telomerases—were involved in adding extra DNA to the ends of chromosomal DNA molecules. Of course that enzyme was then found by Carol Greider a year or so later. That is why the three of us were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize.

DI: Lucky break or long hard work - how did it happen?

JWS: It started off as collaboration with Liz Blackburn, because I heard her talk about the telomeres from *Tetrahymena*. I was working on double-strand breaks in DNA in yeast. So we got together and we thought we would try to see if the *Tetrahymena* telomeres worked in yeast. Neither of us thought it is going to work because they are so distantly related. But the experiments are actually very easy. So she sent me the DNA, I did the yeast experiment, it worked, and this entire thing opened up a lot of doors to future experiments.

DI: Did you realize that your results would be so important for science?

JWS: Back then we were curious only about how telomeres worked. We had no idea that it was important for anything. So it is only in recent years that all the connections to cancer and diseases of ageing have become more and more obvious.

DI: You have received a great number of awards over the recent years. Was it a surprise to become a Nobel Prize winner?

JWS: When we shared the Lasker award, then you say statistically there is some chance, but you can never know. So it was, maybe not a complete surprise, but it was still kind of a shock.

DI: And how did you find out?

JWS: Got a phone call from Sweden in the middle of the night, I was sound asleep. The phone call woke me up, and the chair of the committee said that I won the Nobel Prize.

DI: The Nobel Prize was awarded for work that was done in the 1980's but now you are not working on the telomerase field. How have you decided to switch your research interests and be involved in the field of origins of life?

JWS: I have changed fields as a researcher several times. After working in yeast genetics for 10 or 15 years, I have decided it would be more fun to do something different for a change. And I actually started thinking about this at the time we were doing the telomere

work in the mid '80s. Basically at the same time the work on ribozymes was coming out. And I thought that was pretty exciting, interesting stuff. So I gradually started to switch over working on RNA biochemistry. That led to *in vitro* evolution, ribozymes, aptamers, and that eventually led to origin of life, which is our current focus.

DI: How difficult is it to synthesize a protocell?

JWS: We think there are two main components. You need some kind of cell membrane, which has to be able to grow and divide, and you need some genetic material, RNA or something similar, which also has to be able to replicate spontaneously. So when we started working on membranes, almost ten years ago, that looked very hard. But now, it looks pretty easy because we pretty much know how it works. So now the thing that still looks hard is the nucleic acid replication. And it looks hard because we do not understand it.

DI: How do protocells divide?

JWS: We know how to make membranes, cell membranes to grow and divide. That is very simple. What we do not know is how to make some genetic material replicate spontaneously. So that is the hard part.

DI: How do simple molecules get across the protocell membrane without the complicated biological machinery (proteins)?

JWS: It is just a matter of what molecules the membrane is made of, and what molecules can get across. It turns out that if you make the membrane out of simpler molecules, like fatty acids, they are much more permeable to small polar molecules. So you need a primitive membrane, but you also need primitive building blocks, therefore nucleoside triphosphates do not go across very well. But simpler nucleotides can get across the membrane quite easily.

DI: Are these protocell membranes thermostable?

The membranes are pretty thermostable, and when you heat them up they become more permeable, so stuff can get in. Also, at high temperature, the strands of a duplex nucleic acid can separate. So if you copied a single-stranded template into a double-stranded product at low temperature, you could separate the strands at high temperature, and then once the temperature has fallen you could do another round of replication.

DI: Do you think that your work on the protocell will lead in a second Nobel Prize?

JWS: Well I do not know. At this point I just like to focus on the science and try to make some more progress.

DI: Can you describe the path your career has followed? Were there any key decisions you made that contributed to your ascent from PhD student to principal investigator?

JWS: Yes, sure. Actually when I started as a graduate student I went to a plant physiology lab. I was working on plant development, and I had these big plans to do developmental genetics on a very simple green algae. That whole project was a complete disaster. And that led me to switch into a biochemistry lab, Ray Wu's lab, where I had come up with the idea with a colleague that we could try to synthesize an oligo nucleotide and use it as a probe. That was back then, when it took a year and a half to make one stupid oligo. But anyway, it also led to a paper in Nature so it worked out OK in the end. Then I stayed in the same lab but I worked in a different project. I started to work on recombination and learn yeast genetics, because another friend of mine, Rod Rothstein, moved to the same lab, so he taught me yeast genetics, and I taught him molecular biology. That was when I first began to work on recombination. My first academic job was at Sydney Farber Cancer Institute, and I started off working on recombination. About a year later I met Liz Blackburn and started working on telomeres. So we had both the double-strand break repair and the telomere projects going on at the same time. After that I went off in these different directions.

DI: Do you have any advice for young investigators for performing Nobel prize-winning science?

JWS: Well, you cannot predict thing like Nobel Prizes. But what I have tried is to find questions that are interesting and important,

where not too many people are working on them; because it is not fun to be working on something that twelve other labs are working on. Even if you get there first, what is the point if someone else is going to do it the next week or next month? So I like to find questions that are interesting but not crowded. They also have to be something that is technically feasible, because there are lots of interesting questions that are impossible to approach. So you have to find something that is interesting, doable, and not crowded. That is the perfect recipe, at least for me.

DI: What is your opinion regarding basic versus translational science and the funding situation for young investigators?

JWS: I think it is a problem. You obviously need to have some balance between basic fundamental questions and more applied or translational. Well, it is getting very hard to get funding for things that are really fundamental and basic, and since that is exactly where the really big changes come from, I think it too bad that it is so hard these days.

DI: Do you have a favorite paper from your own lab-one that displays elegant science, critical thinking and enlightened interpretation of results?

JWS: Well, old papers, I would say, the first telomere paper is a good one, the double-strand break repair model is another good one, and then our paper on RNA selection, *in vitro* selection. More recently, it is not that recent; it is ten years ago that we had that paper called synthesizing life, which is the basis of everything that we are doing now.

DI: What is the best piece of advice you were ever given in your scientific career?

JWS: I can answer this one with a story. When I was a graduate student in Ray Wu's lab I was struggling and struggling to synthesize this oligo, and we did not really have the right expertise in the lab, so I was getting really frustrated after about a year, and then Ray said, well look, you have to learn how to do it right, so he did arrange for me to go and visit a lab where they did this for a living. So I went, I got the proper instruction; I learned how to do it right, came back and finished the project. So it made me realize that it is just silly to keep struggling at something. You just have to go and ask for advice, get the right training, and not beat your head against the wall. Just learn how to do things properly.

DI: In your opinion what could be the greatest contribution to science in the 21st century?

JWS: That is a tough one. I mean there are so many practical issues that people think of most. I do not know. There are so many interesting questions. It is hard to say what would be the most important.

DI: What's your favorite way to relax?

JWS: Probably just reading an interesting book, or doing something outdoors. We like to take the family and go hiking, do outdoors activities.

DI: Have you even been to Greece?

JWS: Yes. I have been several times. Actually one of my favorite places in the world is Santorini, so spectacularly beautiful.

DI: Thank you very much for your time.

*The audio-format of the interview was transcribed to a paper-format by
Dimitra Chalkia, Ph.D., Associate Editor of WHBN*



Contemporary Concepts in Cardiology Symposium

November 13, 2010
Chicago, IL



Dr Archer

Moderators



Dr Dangas

WHBA, in collaboration with the University of Chicago, organized a one-day symposium on Contemporary Concepts in Cardiology on November 13, 2010 at the Gleacher Center in Chicago. This symposium was organized during the annual meeting of the American Heart Association. Well-known speakers participated in two sessions.



Dr Ballantyne



Dr Bakris



Dr Michelakis

In the first session about "Emerging Clinical & Translational concepts in Cardiology", **Christie M. Ballantyne, M.D.** from Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, talked about "*Treatment targets for Hyperlipidemia & Inflammation*", followed by **George L. Bakris, M.D.** from University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, who talked about "*Kidney Disease, Hypertension and Cardiovascular Risk*". The first session ended with **Evangelos D. Michelakis, M.D.** from University of Alberta, Canada, who presented "*The metabolic basis of Pulmonary Artery Hypertension and Cancer*".



Dr Kranias



Dr Koch



Dr Frangogiannis

The second session was titled "Molecular Cardiology: From Bench to the Bedside". **Litsa Kranias, Ph.D.** from University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH, presented her work on "*Calcium cycling circuits in cardiac function and disease*". The second speaker was **Walter J. Koch, Ph.D.** from Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, who talked about "*GRK2 inhibition as a Treatment for Heart Failure. Moving from bench to bedside*". The session ended with **Nikolaos G. Frangogiannis, M.D.** from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY, who presented the "*Mechanisms of repair following myocardial injury*".

Moderators of the symposium were **Stephen L. Archer, M.D** from University of Chicago, IL, USA and **George D. Dangas, M.D., Ph.D** from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA. Special remarks were given by **Panos Vardas, M.D., Ph.D.**, from University of Crete, Greece, who is also President-elect of the European Society of Cardiology.



Dr Vardas

This was a well organized event that attracted basic and clinical scientists who were interested in new concepts in cardiology. Further information, as well as downloads from the presentations, can be found at the WHBA website (<http://www.whba1990.org>).

Meet the Executive Board Members

George Tsioulis, MD, PhD

Dr. George John Tsioulis was born in Athens in 1958. His mother was a civil servant with the Ministry of Transportation and his father a Greek Air Force pilot. Both his parents originated from Arcadia. He spent his childhood in Athens and in Malta. In 1976 he graduated from the Varvakeion Model School with honors. In 1982 he graduated from the University of Athens Medical School with honors. After serving two years as a medical officer in the Greek Air Force, he started his surgical training at the NIMTS Hospital in Athens. In 1987 he received scholarships from the Japanese Government and the European Union to conduct medical research in Japan. He received his Ph.D. in Cell Biology from the University of Tokyo. In 1991 he was invited to the United States to continue his medical research on cancer, and was a postdoctoral associate at Cornell University Medical College and Rockefeller University for 3 years. He completed his surgical residency at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He received further specialized training in cancer surgery at the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Los Angeles. In 2001 he returned to New York as Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Mount Sinai School Medicine and Director of the Surgical Oncology Program in Mount Sinai of Queens. In 2010 he became Chief of General Surgery of the New Jersey VA HealthCare System. He has received multiple awards and scholarships from the National Institutes of Health and the European Union among others. His work on basic and clinical research on colon carcinogenesis and cancer immunology has been published extensively, and he has authored or co-authored multiple articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and book chapters. He has been invited to present his work in many national and international scientific congresses. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and holds active membership in many prestigious scientific societies including among others the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Association of Cancer Research. He is the president of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, and the World Hellenic Biomedical Association and is serving on the boards of the Global Hellenic Biomedical Network, the Federation of the Hellenic Medical Societies of Northern America, the Hellenic Business Network, the Pan Arcadian Federation of America, and the George Papanicolaou Institute. During his tenure at the Hellenic Medical Society he has promoted a more extrovert and socially involved role for the Society and emphasized volunteer work for the Community. He is currently involved in health care projects with the Greek Teachers Association, the Omada Aigaiou, which provides medical services to communities in remote and isolated Greek islands, and HelliniCare, which is involved in health education and health care in Greek communities in the Russia, Ukraine and Georgia. He is married to Dr. Kathleen Stergiopoulos, cardiologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the State University at Stony Brook, and he is the proud father of Anna and Yiannaki.

**Konstantinos Drosatos, M.Sc., Ph.D.**

Konstantinos Drosatos is a Research Scientist at the Department of Medicine of the Columbia University in New York. He got his BSc in Biology degree from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki and he did his MSc as well as his PhD in the University of Crete and the Boston University. He finished his PhD in 2007 and has published his PhD thesis research that was about the transcriptional regulation of apolipoprotein E as well as the apoE-mediated induction of hypertriglyceridemia. He also initiated and coordinated a collaborative project that identified a microRNA (miR-370), which targets directly an important enzyme for fatty acid catabolism (Carnitine palmitoyl-transferase I) in the liver. His current research focuses on the consequences of hyperlipidemia, which occurs in obese and diabetic people, as well as of endotoxic shock in cardiac function. Specifically, he studies G-protein-coupled receptor abnormalities, ER-stress-mediated toxicity and impairment of fatty acid metabolism in the heart. In 2005 Konstantinos Drosatos co-founded the Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA (www.hba-usa.org) and served as its president from 2005 to 2010. The HBA-USA is a non-profit scientific organization that now embraces more than 350 bioscientists in the USA. In 2007 the HBA-USA became a member of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association. He is also General Secretary assigned with the international relationships of the International Center for Hellenic Research (www.icher.eu). Since January of 2010 Konstantinos Drosatos has been elected as president of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association for the period 2012-2014.

Peter Karayiannis, BSc, PhD, FIBMS, FRCPath

Petros (Peter) Karayiannis BSc, PhD, FIBMS, FRCPath (Virology) holds the position of Reader in Molecular Virology, in the Section of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Imperial College, London, UK. He was born in Famagusta, Cyprus in 1951 and following his military service he enrolled in the School of Microbiology at Liverpool University, where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree and later on his Doctorate. He is married to Maria from

Kyrenia and have three grown up children. Apart from his Academic duties, Petros is research active in the field of viral hepatitis, heading a group which is interested in the molecular biology of the hepatitis viruses, their pathogenicity, natural history of infection and genomic mutations associated with disease state, as well as antiviral and immunisation programmes. He is the author of more than 200 papers which have appeared in peer reviewed jour-

nals and books. He is currently European Editor of the Journal of Viral Hepatitis and editorial board member of the Journal of Hepatology and World Journal of Gastroenterology. He is currently vice-President of WHBA, ex-president of the Hellenic Medical Society UK, ex-President of the Association of Cypriot Scientists and Professionals UK and Patron of the Leukaemia Society UK.



E. Lila Amirali, MD

No biographic information was submitted at the time of publication



Dimitris Paschos, MD



Dr Dimitrios Paschos, MRCPsych is a Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disabilities at the Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust in London. He also works for the private organisation Cambian Group. He is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He was born in Thessaloniki and studied medicine at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He then specialised at the South London and Maudsley psychiatric rota-

tion in London where he gained wide clinical experience in both general adult and learning disability psychiatry. He published in peer-reviewed journals and written book chapters on the mental health of people with learning disabilities. He is an honorary research fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry. He regularly teaches postgraduate students at the MSc of King's College London, as well as, junior doc-

tors and medical students at University College London. Dr Paschos is actively involved in clinical governance and service improvement activities in the NHS. His special interests include the treatment of adults with autistic spectrum conditions and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Dr Paschos is currently the President Elect of the Hellenic Medical Society of the United Kingdom.



Spyros Mezitis, MD, PhD

Dr. Spyros G.E. Mezitis is Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Endocrinology Consultant and Clinical Investigator at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill-Cornell Medical Center and Lenox Hill Hospital/Northshore/LIJ Healthcare System in New York City. He is an expert in diabetes mellitus and vascular disease and has participated in many phase III and IV trials on new diabetes medications sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. Furthermore, he is treating many patients with thyroid disease and has received the Byrne Research Award for Thyroid Cancer Research during his fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center in New York City. He studied medicine at Heidelberg University in Heidelberg, Germany and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he completed his Internal Medicine Residency in 1992. Dr. Spyros Mezitis was a PhD student and National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored Postdoctoral Fellow in Neuropathology at the Neuropathology Laboratory of Dr. Nicholas Gonatas at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in the 1980s. He received multiple NIH Research Awards and the Biomedical Award of the University of Pennsylvania for best PhD thesis for his breakthrough research on the organelle-specific proteins of the neuronal Golgi apparatus. Dr. Spyros Mezitis was born in Athens, Greece and did his secondary schooling at the American Community School and Athens College in Athens, Greece and Bunsen Gymnasium in Heidelberg, Germany where he was captain of the volleyball championship team. Dr. Spyros Mezitis has been active in Hellenic affairs and has organized the University of Pennsylvania Greek Club. He was President of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York 2000-2004, founded the Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America in Montreal, Canada in 2002 and co-founded the Global Hellenic Medical and Biosciences Network (GHMBN) in 2007 on the Hippocratic island of Kos in Greece. He is currently President of the Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America (www.fedmed.weebly.com) representing five thousand physicians and Chairman of the Global Hellenic Medical and Biosciences Network 2010 – 2012 (www.ghmbn.weebly.com) representing ten thousand Hellenic physicians and bioscientists. In 2009, in Lagonissi near Athens during the very successful third annual conference of GHMBN, he was voted Treasurer of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association (WHBA). Dr. Spyros Mezitis is fiercely patriotic, believes in the coordination of the Hellenic societies of the Omogenia to network Greek professionals globally, to establish a foundation for the preservation of Hellenism in the United States, and to support Greek national causes. He is organizing the 4th Annual Conference of the GHMBN with thirty internationally acclaimed Hellenic physicians and bioscientists lecturing on the latest Advances in Medicine and Community Health at the Lenox Hill Hospital Conference Center in Manhattan, December 3-4, 2010 before the Annual Scholarship Gala Dinner Dance of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York (www.hmsny.org) at the New York Athletic Club. Dr. Spyros G.E. Mezitis, MD, PhD is maintaining a busy endocrine practice on Manhattan's Upper East Side at 220 East 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021 tel 212-288-6661.

Ilias Iliadis, MD, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI



Elias was born on 3 July 1965 in Neptune, New Jersey to Anthony and Sophia Iliadis, formerly of Piraeus Greece. After completing his Internship and Residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Elias completed his Cardiology Fellowship at Rush Presbyterian St Luke's Medical Center in Chicago and advanced training in interventional Cardiology at University of Michigan Medical Centers. Dr. Iliadis is currently Director of Peripheral Vascular interventions, Medical Director of Non-invasive Vascular laboratories and Associate Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at Cooper University Hospital, Camden NJ. Elias's community involvement includes Chairman of the Education Committee and Corresponding Secretary of the Parish Council, St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill NJ. He is a longstanding member of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York and was a Scholarship recipient. He is a founding Board Member and current President of the Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia. He has been nominated to the New Jersey Hellenic Heritage Commission and serves as Secretary of the Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America. He is current board member of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association and member of the steering committee of the Global Hellenic Biomedical Network Conference in New York. Married to Katherine Dedes Iliadis, RPH, they have 3 children: Sophia 15, Nicholas 11 and Elena 9. The family resides in Moorestown, New Jersey.

Zois Vrettos, MD

Ο Ζώης Βρεττός γεννήθηκε το 1955 στον Αλέξανδρο Λευκάδος. Δημοτικό και γυμνάσιο τελείωσε στη Λευκάδα και αμέσως μετανάστευσε στη Δ. Γερμανία που βρίσκονταν ήδη η οικογένεια του. Απο το 1974 έως 1981 σπούδασε ιατρική στα πανεπιστήμια Bochum και Essen. Παράλληλα έκανε σπουδές στην νεοελληνική και βυζαντινή φιλολογία. Απο το 1981 έως το 1991 εργάστηκε σε διάφορα νοσοκομεία και πήρε τις ειδικότητες του ειδικού παθολόγου και καρδιολόγου. Από το 1992 διατηρεί στην πόλι Witten της Γερμανίας ιατρείο για Καρδιολογία, ειδική παθολογία και αθλητιατρική. Παράλληλα συνεργάζεται με το νοσοκομείο Gemeinschaftskrankenhaus Herdecke του πανεπιστημίου WITTEN / HERDECKE. Είναι μέλος ιατρικών εταιρειών στη Γερμανία και Ελλάδα, σε γερμανοελληνικά σωματεία και ελληνικούς συλλόγους της ομογένειας στη Γερμανία. Είναι συνιδρυτής της εταιρείας ελλήνων επιστημόνων Β. Ρηνανίας Βεσφαλίας (1986) της οποίας είναι πρόεδρος από το 2000. Είναι ιδρυτής του Ομίλου ελληνικών λαϊκών χωρών "ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ" το 1974 του οποίου είναι υπεύθυνος. Παντρεμένος με τη Δέσποινα Σαμαρτζή (ποντιακής –μικρασιατικής καταγωγής) έχουν ένα γιό τον Παναγιώτη Αλέξανδρο, φοιτητή ιατρικής.

**4th Annual Conference - December 3 - 4, 2010 - New York, NY, USA**

In coordination with the Ministries of Health of Greece and Cyprus



Dr. S. Mezitis addressing the audience at Lenox Hill Hospital



Left to right: Dr. E. Iliadis, Dr. G. Tsioulis, Dr. T. Thomou, Mr. P. Kotrotsios, Dr. O. Sarantopoulou, Honorable K. Sophianou, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Honorable A. Balta, Dr. G. Dangas and Dr. S. Mezitis

The 4th Annual Multidisciplinary Conference of the Global Hellenic Medical and Biosciences Network which was sponsored by the Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America took place at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City on December 3 and 4, 2010 This was a very successful event which aimed in networking the Hellenic physicians and bioscientists, furthering the communication with Greek physicians and bioscientists, and becoming a model for other Hellenic professional networks to organize. Over 150 physicians and bioscientists enrolled for the conference to learn from thirty high quality bioscientific presentations and excellent panel discussions.

Details of the event, along with other activities, can be found at the network's website www.ghmbn.weebly.com and www.fedmed.weebly.com.

Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia

Past Events

- Three successful Social events were held in conjunction with the Greek American Chamber of Commerce and American Hellenic Lawyer Association; Winter Social, The Pub, Pennsauken NJ; Spring Social, The Waterworks, Philadelphia; Fall Social, Kuzina by Sophia, Cherry Hill NJ.
- HMS Philadelphia actively participated in the Global Hellenic Medical and Biosciences Networking meeting in New York Dec 2010.
- HMS Philadelphia participated in Christmas Party sponsored by Hellenic University Club and was attended by nearly 200 people.
- HMS Philadelphia sponsored its first Continuing Medical Education entitled "Hippocrates Seminars" at Hermes Expo, Atlantic City NJ in March 2010. Over 50 attendees received 3 credit hrs AMA category 1 credit and the event was co-sponsored by the Hellenic Medical Society of New York and the Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America and Canada.
- In December 2010, The Board and the Scholarship committee selected Ms Natalie Saffos as our first Allied Health Scholarship recipient.
- HMS Philadelphia, with the permission of his eminence Evangelos, began the Community Service Initiative in several parishes within the metropolis. HMS members provided BP screening and medical advice to parishioners and were warmly received by all. Over 40 participated at St Thomas Cherry Hill and over 60 at St Anthony Vineland.
- HMS Philadelphia members also participated in a Breast Cancer awareness event sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope in October 2010.

Upcoming Events

- Winter Social 2011: co-sponsored by Greek American Chamber of Commerce and American Hellenic Lawyers association, planning for winter Social in late January or early February. Venue is being chosen and more details to follow. Those interested on being on the Social Committee, please let the Society know at HMSPHL@gmail.com.
- HMS Philadelphia co-sponsoring Greek American Forum on Health Care, February/March 2011: A ½ day symposium discussing the impact of the current health care reform legislation from many perspectives: Legislative, Medical, Legal and Insurance. Organizing committee includes Mr. Stavros Antonakakis and Mr. Assad Khoury from the GACC, Ms. Arsinoe Shook from AHILA and Elias Iliadis, MD, Catherine Nicolaidis MD from HMS. If interested in participating on the organizing committee, please email the society at HMSPHL@gmail.com.
- Community Service Initiative of Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia: HMS Philadelphia performed its community service initiative at St Anthony GOC in Vineland NJ and St Thomas GOC in Cherry Hill. The Society is looking forward to assisting your parish in improving it's health in 2011 as well as giving an opportunity to meet the members of the HMS. If interested in sponsoring an event at your church, please contact the Society at HMSPHL@gmail.com.
- Hellenic Medical Society of Philadelphia Continuing Medical Education Event at Hermes Expo 2011: Our annual CME event at the Hermes Expo is in the planning phases and we are considering the Title of "Future Advances in Medicine". We hope to build on last year's success and bring you an opportunity to discover the many talented individuals within your HMS. The CME committee is being formed and if interested, please contacts the society at HMSPHL@gmail.com.

Hellenic Medical Association of Quebec (HMAQ)

A Continuing Medical Education presentation by Andrew C. Karaplis, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FACP Professor, Department of Medicine, McGill University and Director of Metabolic Bone Disease Clinic was held at the Ristorante Da Emma on October 26, 2010. The CME was entitled "Bone Anabolics: A Personal Experience" and upon completion of the program, participants were better able to a) identify the appropriate patient for treatment, b) understand the role of anabolics in the treatment of Osteoporosis, and c) maximize treatment for their Osteoporosis patients.

HELLENIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF QUEBEC REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Hellenic Medical Association of Quebec (HMAQ) held a fundraising Gala on November 14, 2010 at Montreal's Estiatorio Milos – a premier restaurant, Montreal landmark, and a flagship gathering place for Montreal's Hellenic community.

The event raised funds for the Hellenic Scholarships Foundation (HSF), a Hellenic initiative giving support to students of Hellenic origin in institutions of higher learning. The funds raised will be used to create an endowed Peter Varvarikos Memorial Scholarship, which the Hellenic Scholarships Foundation will be handing out to students that are following an education leading towards Medicine. The Gala was in honor of Dr. Vassilios Papadopoulos, who is the new Director of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). He is also a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University, and the Canada Research Chair in Biochemical Pharmacology.

The event's theme was "The Hippocratic Heritage in Montreal" and focused on the Greek community's contribution to the medical and paramedical fields over time.

The HMAQ would like to announce that the event was a great success with a capacity crowd of over 170 people who had a wonderful evening of great food, drink, and music.

Hosted by CBC reporter and well known local celebrity Joanna Vrakas, the event showcased Milos's exquisite cuisine and wine, coupled with classy musical entertainment. Speeches were given by the President of the HMAQ, Dr. Lila Amirali, the President of the HSF, John Hadjinicolaou, the General Consul of Greece in Montreal, Thanos Kafopoulos, the night's honoree, Dr. Vassilis Papadopoulos, and by the late Dr. Peter Varvarikos's children, Dion and Dr. Maria Varvarikos. A wonderful presentation on the Hellenic Medical Community in Montreal through the ages was given by Dr. Christos Tsoukas. The successful attendance and the impressive variety of items for the silent auction helped raise the stated goal of \$20,000.00 for the Peter Varvarikos Scholarship.

We would like to thank all the Honorable Mr. Kafopoulos, Dr. Papadopoulos, the organizers (especially Ms. Lesley-Ann Judge), our association members, Joanna Vrakas, the musicians, our donors and the tireless and gracious staff of Milos each of who helped in the success of this event. We hope to see you all soon again when we host future galas that help our Hellenic community and the community at large.

Sincerely,
Christos Karatzios MDCM, FRCPC
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
McGill University Health Centre
Secretary, Hellenic Medical Association of Quebec
Office: (514) 412-4485



Hellenic Medical Society of New York (HMSNY)

- The Hellenic Medical Society of New York organized a lecture by Archbishop of America Demetrios, Ph.D, Th.D. Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America entitled "Honor the Physician: The Healing Arts in Orthodox Biblical Perspective". An introduction was made by George John Tsioulis, M.D., Ph.D. President of Hellenic Medical Society. The event was held on October 21, 2010 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral Center 337 East 74th Street New York, NY, and was sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.
- The Hellenic Medical Society of New York in collaboration with the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York and Hellenic Link, Inc introduced to the Hellenic American Community the Omada Aigaiou, a pre-eminent Greek volunteer organization focusing on revitalizing isolated communities living on remote islands of the Aegean Sea by providing medical services and improving living conditions (<http://www.omadaaigaiou.gr>). The event took place on Thursday, December 2 at the Stathakion Center 22-51 29th Street Astoria, NY.
- The Hellenic Medical Society of New York organized its 74th Anniversary Celebration which included The Scientific Scholarship evening event held at the Cathedral Cultural Center, 337 East 74th Street, New York, NY on Friday, December 3, 2010. The Gala Dinner/Dance followed on Saturday, December 4, 2010 at The New York Athletic Club at 180 Central Park South, New York City. The Honorees at this year's Gala were: Dr. Charalabos (Harry) Pothoulakis, Eli and Edythe Broad Professor of Medicine, Head, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Section, Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center Division of Digestive Diseases, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA, Distinguished Philhellene Senator Robert Menendez, Distinguished Hellene Mr. Panikos Papanicolaou, and Distinguished Philanthropic Organization, Omada Aigaiou.

Additional activities, events and other information on HMSNY can be found at their website www.HMSNY.org



Hellenic Bioscientific Association in the USA (HBA-USA)

On December 1st, the Ronald McDonald House, which supports children undergoing cancer treatment and their families, honored Dr George Tsoulis (Surgical Oncologist, President of the Medical Society of New York and President of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association), along with Dr George Dangas (Associate Professor, Columbia University, Honorary President of Global Hellenic Medical Network and Chairman of Advisory Board of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association) and Dr. Konstantinos Drosatos (Research Scientist/Columbia University, former president of the HBA-USA and president-elect of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association), at the House's Greek Division's Annual Fundraising Christmas party.

Of note, Mrs. Niki Sideris, the Chairman of the Greek Division, has been a strong supporter of HBA programs in the past and is also providing important advice and support for our future endeavors. Specifically she has supported the program for the establishment of teaching collaboration between the Bioscientific departments of Greek universities and USA based faculties of Greek descent for undergraduate and graduate courses, which is one of the major initiatives of HBA for the upcoming year.

Hellenic Medical Society in the United Kingdom

The Hellenic Medical Society in the United Kingdom celebrated their 25th Year Anniversary, with representatives of the World Hellenic Biomedical Association present, at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, Saturday the 9th of October 2010.

The day was opened and presided by Theodora Foukaneli, current president of the Hellenic Medical Society in the United Kingdom. Professor Gabriel Panayi, from King's College London and one of the founding members, gave the first keynote on the formation of the society including a number of entertaining and heart-warming anecdotes.



Professor Nick Bouras, from King's College London and Maudsley International, and Professor Gregory Sivolapenko, from the University of Patras co-chaired a session showcasing some of the many interesting research themes pursued by greek scientists worldwide, including work on fatty acids and heart disease, by Dr Konstantinos Drosatos, from Columbia University, research on the treatment of bone metastases, with a particular focus on the use of bisphosphonates, by Professor Dimitrios Kardamakis, from Patras University Medical School, and diagnostic debates about affective disorders in children and adolescents in the US, by Professor Pavlos Kymissis, from New York Medical College.

Professor Argiris Efstratiadis, Higgins Professor Emeritus of Genetics and Development at Columbia University and Scientific Director of the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens, delivered an excellent Hippocratic Oration, which presented current science in the light of philosophical viewpoints of greek antiquity.

The Papanikolaou Prize was awarded for work submitted by junior investigators and, this year, it was shared by Aikaterini Fotopoulou for her work on anosognosia primarily in stroke patients and Konstantinos Mandilaras for his work on iron metabolism using *dro-sophila* as a model organism.

Lord David Owen, former Foreign Secretary, gave the dinner talk on 'hubris' syndrome, which was followed by relaxed informal discussions throughout the evening.

The Hellenic Medical Society of the UK wishes to thank the contribution of all those that made the celebration possible and all those that participated and made it the enjoyable event it was.

Details and contacts can be found at: <http://www.hellenicmedicalsocietyuk.org/>





World Hellenic Biomedical
Association

www.whba1990.org

Note from the Editorial Board

This section aims to present scientific meetings of interest to members of WHBA. If you want a meeting or conference announcement to be included in a future Newsletter, please e-mail the info to the editorial board (evandoc@comcast.net)

CORTICAL DEVELOPMENT

NEURAL STEM CELLS TO NEURAL CIRCUITS

CHANIA, CRETE, GREECE
MAY 19-22, 2011

ORGANIZERS: G FISHELL, AR KRIEGSTEIN AND JG PARNAVELAS
WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE CAJAL CLUB

<p>ARTURO ALVAREZ-BUYLLA (SAN FRANCISCO)</p> <p>YEHEZKEL BEN-ARI (MARSEILLE)</p> <p>BIN CHEN (SANTA CRUZ)</p> <p>SONIA GAREL (PARIS)</p> <p>ANDRE GOFFINET (BRUSSELS)</p> <p>GORD FISHELL (NEW YORK)</p> <p>WIELAND HUTTNER (DRESEN)</p> <p>NICOLETTA KESSARIS (LONDON)</p> <p>ARNOLD KRIEGSTEIN (SAN FRANCISCO)</p> <p>JEFFREY MACKLIS (BOSTON)</p> <p>OSCAR MARIN (ALICANTE)</p>	<p>HANNAH MONYER (HEIDELBERG)</p> <p>NORIKO OSUMI (SENDAI)</p> <p>JOHN PARNAVELAS (LONDON)</p> <p>PASKO RAKIC (NEW HAVEN)</p> <p>JOHN RUBENSTEIN (SAN FRANCISCO)</p> <p>YOSHIKI SASAI (KOBE)</p> <p>NENAD SESTAN (NEW HAVEN)</p> <p>NOBUAKI TAMAMAKI (KUMAMOTO)</p> <p>CHRISTOPHER WALSH (BOSTON)</p> <p>XIAO BING YUAN (SHANGHAI)</p>
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FOR INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.CORTICALDEVELOPMENT.ORG

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Excellence in Rheumatology Conference, 17-19 February 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

Introducing [Excellence in Rheumatology](#) – the who's who of world-renowned rheumatologists revealing their latest findings as they relate to clinical practice!

- **Over 50 expert speakers** from across academia and the health care sector
- **Usable, practical and dynamic insights** essential for everyday clinical practice
- **Interactive round-tables**, workshops and meet the expert sessions
- **Book of abstracts published as a supplement by *Rheumatology***
- **Exciting best abstracts awards & bursaries**
- **18 CPD credits** awarded by the Royal College of Rheumatology. EACCME accreditation will also be provided.
- **Capped at 1,500 delegates** to maximize networking opportunities

Dedicated thematic streams on:

- **Inflammatory Arthritis** led by Prof. P van Riel, Netherlands
- **Systemic Autoimmune Diseases** led by Prof. G Tsokos, USA
- **Co-morbidity** led by Prof. G Kitas, UK