

## IN MEMORIAM



**SPYROS MARKETOS (1931-2012)**  
**professor emeritus of history of medicine,**  
**Athens medical school**

It is with sadness that we announce that Professor Emeritus Spyros Marketos passed away on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of February. Professor Spyros Marketos was an avid promoter for the rebirth and study of History of Medicine in Greece during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in Athens in 1931. He studied Medicine at the Medical School of Athens and received his degree in 1955. He expressed his passion in historical studies as well as in the social dimension of medicine even before training as an internal medicine resident. Early in his career, in 1967, he became a member of the National Research Council and a co-investigator of the American Heart Association and the World Health Organization. He climbed the ladder of academic hierarchy in two different scientific fields: Clinical Therapeutics and History of Medicine. He was elected successively assistant professor (1969-72) and as associate professor (1973-78) in the Department of Clinical Therapeutics of the Medical School of Athens. However, his passion for history drove him to “divorce himself from the clinical disciplines” - as he used to say with a sense of humour - and to fully commit himself to the history of medicine. In 1980, he was appointed professor and chairman (1980-1998) of the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine and in 1998 he retired as professor emeritus.

He authored or co-authored more than 300 scientific papers in the history of medicine, public health, medical ethics, and nephrology. He also authored three collections of essays entitled *Bio-medical Notes*, *Living Well*, and *Doing Well*. Having a deep sense and understanding of physician's ethical mission, he authored two monographs on this topic: *Claude Bernard and Our Era*" and *René Laennec: The French Hippocrates*. Over the last 20 years Prof Marketos also published biographies of the most prominent pioneers in Greek medicine of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

All of his life he was trying to bring medicine closer to the general public, as evidenced by more than 600 articles in the Greek press during the 1970s and 1980s. He also contributed to the founding of two medical schools in Greece (in Ioannina and Alexandroupolis). Prof Marketos also fought for the rights of patients with renal diseases and for the protection of the Greek medical heritage. In this respect, he was the proponent for introducing jubilee postal stamps to honour the inventor of the pap-test, Dr George Papanicolaou. Prof Marketos also donated his private collection of Dr Papanicolaou's personal belongings (such as his microscope and his correspondence with his family in Greece) to the Museum of the Anatomy Department of the Medical School in Athens.

Prof Marketos presided over the National Welfare Organization and the National Committee on Human Tissue Transplantation for Therapeutic Purposes between 1976 and 1980. He was editor-in-chief of *Materia Medica Greca* (1973-1992), vice president of the executive board of the International Hippocratic Foundation of Cos, vice president of the Greek Foundation of Social Work, and president of the Greek Association of Medical Press. Between 1976 and 1980 he was secretary general of the Greek Ministry of Social Services and between 1986 and 1989 a member of the Greek parliament.

As head of the History of Medicine Department of the Medical School of Athens, Prof Marketos was the national delegate and vice president of the International Society for the History of Medicine (1993-1998). He was also president of the Hellenic Association for the History, Sociology and Philosophy of Medical Sciences (1986), president of the Foundation for the History of Medicine "N.C. Louros", president of the Greek National Ethics Council (1993), honorary president of the International Society of Humanistic Neo-Hippocratic Medicine (1993), vice president of the European Health Club Federation (1992), counsellor of the MOA Health Science Foundation Japan (1993), counsellor of the International Association for the History of Nephrology (1994), counsellor of the

European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care (ESPMH) (1994), and advisor of the Board of the International Institute of Universalistic Medicine (1995). Professor Marketos co-founded and co-chaired over the Balkan Association for History and Philosophy of Medicine (Varna 2005).

Professor Marketos received numerous distinctions and honorary memberships such as the International “Capire” Prize for Fundamental Ideas and Development of Science Ethics (Moscow 1994), the European Gold Medal of Merit (Luxembourg 1994), the Copernicus Medal of the Jagiellonian University (Krakow 1995), membership in the Polish Academy (Warsaw 1994), honorary membership in Accademia Ligure di Scienze e Lettere, (Genoa 1994), the Golden Hippocratic Prize of the Medical University of Sofia (1996), the Lujo Thaller Award (Croatian Society for the History of Medicine, 1997), honorary membership (*Honoris Causa*) on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the University of Odessa (2000), and honorary membership in the Bulgarian Academy of Science (2010). He was elected member of the Albert Schweitzer World Academy of Medicine (1999) and was awarded the Golden Grand Medal (2000) “for his outstanding merits for medicine and humanism” and the Albert Schweitzer Golden Star (Warsaw, 2001).

Last but not least, Professor Marketos was advisory board member of *Acta medico-historica Adriatica* since its beginning in 2003 until his passing away.

His scientific research covered a diverse set of topics, ranging from quantitative nosography and social medicine to history of medicine and medical ethics. He had been deeply affected by the neo-Hippocratic concept and was completely committed to the principles of the “*Universitas*”. Prof Marketos firmly believed that every patient was entitled to quality clinical care and that every person had the right to pursue academic education. His principles will always be our guide. May he rest in peace.

Effie Poulakou-Rebelakou, Costas Tsiamis  
*History of Medicine*  
*Athens Medical School*