

Asterios Katsamouris 1947–2014



It is with regret that the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery* announces the passing of Professor Asterios Katsamouris who died at his homeplace (Arnaia Chalkidiki) on July 19, 2014, after suffering a fatal myocardial infarction. The Hellenic vascular community mourns the loss of a prominent colleague who made significant clinical, scientific, and academic contributions over the last 30 years.

Asterios Katsamouris completed his education in Arnaia Chalkidiki before completing his undergraduate studies at the Medical School of “Aristotle” University of Thessaloniki. He specialized in general surgery at the University Hospital of Thessaloniki “AHEPA” under the guidance of Dimitrios Lazaridis, who was Professor and Chairman of the department. He subsequently worked for 5 years at the Harvard Medical School at Massachusetts General Hospital, where his interests included the treatment of critically ill surgical patients and vascular surgery. He also spent time at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA.

After returning to Greece in 1990, he was elected Professor of Vascular Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Crete and served in this position until 2009. He established the first academic department of vascular surgery in Greece, which was located at the University General Hospital of Heraklion. In 2009, he moved to Thessaloniki as Professor of Vascular Surgery, where he established the first Academic Department of Vascular Surgery at the “Aristotle” University of Thessaloniki.

His research interests related to the haemodynamics/pathophysiology of vascular disease and particularly the role of colour Duplex ultrasound, culminating in the publication of a textbook *Haemodynamics of Vascular Diseases*, which he wrote in collaboration with Bishop Nicolaos of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki (Nicolaos Chatzinikolaou) in 2001. Professor Katsamouris also maintained a career-long

interest in medical and vascular education and was responsible for the undergraduate programme of clinical practice in surgery at the University of Crete, as well as various under/post-graduate courses in association with the Institute of Vascular Diseases.

Professor Katsamouris served on the Council of the European Society of Vascular Surgery from 2000 to 2005 and also represented Greek vascular surgeons in the specialty of vascular surgery at the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). He was also a member of the Examination Committee of the European Board of Vascular Surgery for the qualification of FEBVS. In 2006, he was awarded an honorary Fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons of England on the basis of his “special contributions in vascular surgery and for the organization of a model department of vascular surgery at the southernmost region of Europe, on the island of Crete”.

Professor Katsamouris was a founding member of the Institute of Vascular Diseases, a non-profit organization aiming at promoting education, clinical innovation and research in vascular surgery, which was established in 2010. He was prominent in the many activities of the institute, especially the organization of the scientific program of the annual LIVE International Symposium.

Asterios was a man of culture and taste, and his friends and colleagues can attest to his sense of humour, and passion for cooking and good wine. He was also a man with a special interest in social/political matters and he recently stood as a candidate in elections for the European Parliament. Professor Katsamouris was buried in the company of his relatives, colleagues, and friends on July 21, 2014, in his beloved homeland of Arnaia, Chalkidiki. He will be missed as a true friend, a visionary man, and as a passionate teacher. We send our best wishes to his wife Helen, son Nicolas, and daughter Sophia. Farewell Asterios, we will never forget you.

A. Giannoukas*

Faculty of Medicine, University of Thessaly, Greece

I. Tsolakis

Faculty of Medicine, University of Patras, Greece

*Corresponding author.

Email-address: giannouk@med.uth.gr (A. Giannoukas)