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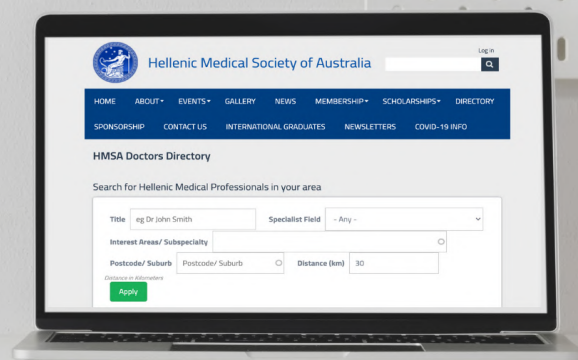
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THE HELLENIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



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A MESSAGE FROM HMSA PRESIDENT DR MARINIS PIRPIRIS



A/ Prof Marinis Pirpiris
MBBS, BMedSci,
MEpi, PhD, FRACS
(Orth), DipEprdBioStat

As we move towards to the start of 2023, it is a great time to reflect on the successes of 2022 and look towards the future.

It was great to see members come out for the colorectal talk as we listened to Peter Tagkalidis, Kosta Syrrakos and George Iatropoulos who provided us with the latest concepts in the diagnosis and management of this disease.

We were then a part of the OXI day commemorations on the 28 October at the Australian Hellenic War Memorial and the Shrine of Remembrance. It was an honour to also represent the HMSA at the Holy Monastery of Axion Estin for the Returned Servicemen's Service commemoration service for OXI day.

The HMSA also had a very big November. We were fortunate to host the Global Doctors Hippocratic Institute with the Greek Community of Melbourne. A formal visit to the University of Melbourne on the 17 November 2022 saw a roundtable discussion between the University of Melbourne on the opportunities for collaboration and the development of unique undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral programs with a commitment to the development of research collaborations. It was great to broker an agreement between the University of Melbourne and the Universities of Athens and Patra of the intent to collaborate in the exchange of clinical and academic students and staff. In a very special ceremony, an authentic replica of the bust of Hippocrates from the National Archaeological Museum of Greece was unveiled in the University of Melbourne Medical School. I was honoured to be the master of ceremonies at the unveiling and a signatory to the agreement. The other signatories were Professor Nicola Lautenschlager (Professor of Psychiatry of Old Age and Director of the Academic Unit for Psychiatry of Old Age and Research Director and Head of School of the Melbourne Medical School), Professor Georgios Antonakis (Professor of Gynaecology and Head of Medical School of the University of Patras), Mr George Patoulis (Governor of Attica, President of the Global Doctors Hippocratic Institute and President of the Athens Medical Association) and Mr Bill Papastergiadis OAM (President of the Greek Community of Melbourne). The other participants in the meeting at the University included Mr Marios Themistocleous (Neurosurgeon, General Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic), Ms Vicky Kyritsis (Social Worker, Assistant Secretary of the Greek Community of Melbourne), Ms Mena Gianellis (Assistant Treasurer, Greek Community of Melbourne), Dr Konstantinos Pantos (Obstetrician, First Vice President of the Global Doctors Hippocratic Institute), Mr Antonios Polydorou (Cardiologist, General Secretary of the Global Doctors Hippocratic Institute), Dr George Stabelos (Vice

President of HMSA, Dr Arthur Kokkinias (Secretary of HMSA), University of Melbourne Representatives and Press Representatives from Greece and Australia.



This was followed by an afternoon of community dialogue between community leaders, community supporters and representatives from two very important community service providers in Victoria—Pronia and Fronditha Care-. We were pleased to welcome Kris Pavlidis (President Pronia) and Jill Taylor (President Fronditha Care) to the Greek Centre to discuss their organisations and then moderate the breakout groups discussing opportunities in the human services space. Georgios Patoulis then presented on the health care provisions, wellbeing and supports for the third age in Greece, including the development of Greece into a hub for wellness and wellbeing.

The Hellenic Medical Society of Australia held its first scientific congress at the Greek Community of Melbourne from the 17th-19th November. It hosted the Global Doctors Hippocratic Institute and the World Diaspora Medical Conference during this meeting. The meeting was opened formally on the 18th November with speeches from Mr Georgios Patoulis (Governor of Attica, President of the Global Doctors Hippocratic Institute, President of the Athens Medical Association and Congress President), Mr Marios Themistocleous (General Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic), Mr Manuel Kakavelakis (Consul General of Hellenic Republic in Victoria), The Hon Steven Dimopoulos MP (Member for Oakleigh, Ministry for Tourism, Sport and Major Events representing the Hon Daniel Andrews MP Premier of Victoria), Ms Georgie Crozier MP (Member for Southern Metropolitan Region and deputy leader of the State Liberal Party representing Mr Matthew Guy MP Leader of the State Liberal Party), The Hon Martin Foley MP (Member for Albert Park and Former Minister for Health and Ambulance Services), Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP (Member for Calwell), The Hon Michael Sukkar MP (Member for Deakin), Lord Mayor Sally Capp (City of Melbourne), Professor Jane Gunn (Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne), Professor George Antonakis (Dean of Faculty of Medicine, University of Patra), Mr Panagiotis Manolas (Congress Scientific Convenor), Mr George Koufogiannis (Congress Scientific Convenor), Mr Bill Papastergiadis OAM (President of the Greek

Community of Melbourne) and Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris (President of the HMSA, Treasurer of the Greek Community of Melbourne and Congress Chair). There were also recorded greetings from Mr Thanos Plevris (Minister of Health Hellenic Republic), Mr Vasilis Kikilias (Minister for Tourism, Hellenic Republic) and Professor John Chrysoulakis (General Secretary for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy Hellenic Republic).



The opening was followed with the signing of an agreement of collaboration (twinning agreement) between the Athens Medical Association and the Hellenic Medical Society of Australia. The agreement was signed by Georgios Patoulis and Marinis Pirpiris and will lead to closer ties and collaboration

between our two societies.



Members of the HMSA will be able to visit the offices of the Athens Medical Association when in Greece and there will be an office where members will be able to utilise. Please make the most of this and ring the offices of the president of the Athens Medical Association and organise a meeting when visiting Athens.

The meeting which went over two days was the culmination of a year's preparation. We were fortunate to have leaders from a number of fields discuss the collaborations between the Universities of Australia and Greece. This was followed by a series of presentations on Global Academic and Educational Collaborations where we heard about the rollout of vaccine programs utilising drone technology in Greece (Mr Marios Themistocleous), successful pharmaceutical models (Mr Dennis Bastas, Co-Founder and Chief Executive of Arrotex Pharmaceuticals and Mr Steve Kastrinakis, Founder and Chief Executive at Pharmacy Platform), Capacity Building in Forensic Toxicology (Associate Professor Dimitris Gerostamoulis, Head of Forensic Science and Chief Toxicologist VIFM) and the cooperation between Australian and Greek Medical Schools (Professor Georgios Antonakis and Professor Jane Gunn). Saturday 19th November saw a series of 25 in person current concepts lectures and 37 virtual on demand lectures providing all in-person and virtual attendees with a wealth of information and professional development.



The evening of the 19 November 2022, saw the inaugural Gala Ball at the Grand Hyatt, where 250 people enjoyed an evening of cultural performances (Manasis Dancing Group), speeches, traditional music (Rythmos Band), dancing and reconnecting with old friends and making new friends. We were also fortunate to see our medical practitioners taking the authentic oath of Hippocrates in Greek (led by Dr

George Patoulis) and in English (led by Marinis Pirpiris). The evening also raised funds for Pronia and Fronditha Care. I would like to thank everyone who generously donated items for the auctions including Nick Koukouvitakis and Michael Karamitos (LV Furniture), George Koufogiannis (GK Urology), Crown Resorts, Mercedes South Melbourne and Simon Braham (Electronic Bidding Charity Fundraising and Gala Fundraising).



I would like to thank our congress partners for their support. We were fortunate to have Arrotex Pharmaceuticals and The Platform Alliance Group as our Platinum sponsors, Accountancy Group and Windsor Management Insurance Brokers as our Premier Sponsors and Mantzis Family Trust, Directed Technologies and Imaging Associates as our Major Sponsors. I would also like to thank our HMSA partner sponsors. We have been fortunate to have the Commonwealth Bank as our Diamond Sponsor, Dorevitch Pathology as our Platinum Sponsor and Zaparas Lawyers as our Gold Sponsor.

I would also like to thank Manuel Tsirmiris (Accountancy Group) for his tireless assistance with our accounting needs, the Greek Community of Melbourne for all its support during the November collaborative event and our media sponsors Neos Kosmos, The Greek Herald, Ta Nea and 3XY.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing holiday period and all the very best for a happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2023 at our many educational events.

Assoc Professor Marinis Pirpiris
President, HMSA

COLORECTAL CANCER DINNER EVENT



HMSA hosted in September the Colorectal Cancer Dinner Event at the Postmaster Hotel in Kew. The night was well attended and was a joy to see people getting out in person once again. HMSA President Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris chaired the evening where we heard from three leading specialists. Dr Peter Tagkalidis gastroenterologist discuss the evolving role of colonoscopy in colorectal cancer, Dr George Iatropoulos, oncologist, covered the various cancers – “the good, the bad and the ugly” and the role of Medical Oncologist, and HMSA Board member Mr Kostas Syrrakos, general surgeon, who covered advances in surgery in colorectal cancer and outcomes. The night was proudly sponsored by Viatrix and Medtronic Australasia and we thank them for their commitment to medical education. Our other sponsors who continuously support us are Commonwealth Bank, Dorevitch Pathology and Zaparas Lawyers.

[View the complete event photo gallery on our website here](#)



OXI DAY - 28 OCTOBER

Australian Hellenic Memorial



The Hellenic R.S.L Sub Branch hosted OXI Day at the Australian Hellenic Memorial on Friday 28th October. This important day on the Greek calendar marks the day when the Greek prime minister rejected an ultimatum given by dictator Benito Mussolini during World War II. The president of the Hellenic Medical Society of Australia, Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris proudly attended and laid a wreath to commemorate this day. Many key representatives of the Greek community were present including the Consul General Mr Emmanuel Kakavelakis, students from Oakleigh Grammar and a number of the Greek Community Groups.



Holy Monastery of Axion Estin

The Hellenic Medical Society of Australia proudly attended the wreath ceremony at Holy Monastery of Axion Estin to mark OXI Day on the Greek calendar. HMSA president Associate Professor Marinis Pirpiris laid a wreath on this significant day in Greece's history when the Greek prime minister Ioannis Metaxas rejected an ultimatum given by dictator Benito Mussolini and delivered by the Italian Ambassador to Greece, Emanuele Grazzi, at approx. 3am on Monday 28 October 1940. Key representatives were present including the Consul General Mr Emmanuel Kakavelakis, MP State Member for Oakleigh The Honourable Steve Dimopoulos and member for South Eastern Metropolitan Mr Lee Tarlamis OAM.



DR JOHN PRAGASTIS

Vale Dr John Pragastis

15.10.1958 - 17.9.2022

Beloved husband of Chrysanthé, father of Christina, Evangeline, & Katherine, brother to Tom; & adored master of Baloo. Passed away peacefully at age 63 after a 3 year battle with cancer.

John was a thrill seeker, collector & proud boy scout. He devoted 35 years of his life to serving the community through his two medical practices in Dandenong & Doveton.



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 - International conferences
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- * HMSA Doctor Directory listing
- * Communications including 3 newsletters per year
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HMSA Aims & Objectives:



- Sharing medical knowledge and experience
- Facilitating connections and synergies between doctors and the community
- Promoting medical education and research
- Supporting medical philanthropy

HMSA Vision Statement:

Enabling doctors to promote better health for all Australians including those of Hellenic descent



HMSA Mission



Unite doctors with the community to achieve better health and inspire lifelong advancement in knowledge

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