

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΙΚΑ ΣΧΟΛΙΑ

Prologue

The current Supplement of the Hellenic Medical Archives contains the Proceedings of the XIth IAHN Congress in Larissa - Greece, on 12–15 September 2019. We are grateful to the 185 year-old Athens Medical Society for deciding to publish them in its Journal. The Congress abstracts have already been published, independently of the Book of Abstracts, in vol. 31, issue 2, 2019 of the Hellenic Nephrology (https://www.ene.gr/eneojs_new/index.php/en/issue/view/80), the Quarterly Journal of the Hellenic Society of Nephrology, which we deeply thank. The Congress and the publication followed on the same very successful previous ones, albeit with some innovations. It always desirable to follow tradition in every aspects of life but with some new practices in order to prolong the survival of its main principles. And, as *survival is not enough*, further development is needed.

The result is much more due to the authors' enthusiastic participation and the spirit of good will during the editorial procedures and far less to the organisers and editors. The novelties introduced were the inclusion in the Congress of speakers from close and far away, ranging from Latvia to Morocco and from the USA to Australia. There were five plenary lectures, 29 oral and 23 poster presentations on familiar or exotic issues. A second novelty was that the posters were not displayed as physical papers on the walls but as short oral communications and thirdly, there were several video presentations. The whole was topped by cultural events. The visit to the unique monastic city of Meteora, to the modern Archaeological Museum of Larissa, to the tomb of the Father of Medicine and finally

the attendance of a special dance performance based on Hippocrates' life allowed participants a better understanding of the place and its history. Hence, a link was built between archaeology and nephrology, and on this we will elaborate further on.

The publication was decided for the first time to include all submitted papers, as the allocation of an abstract to the oral or poster session does not always do justice to good works and is constrained by the time available and the politics of any organisation. We introduced a very strict editing in four levels including proofreading, standard editing, extensive editing, and occasionally rewriting. We are grateful for the collegiality shown by the authors in all steps of the editing procedure. Thanks are due to several groups and persons. The IAHN's Council, the Organising, Publishing and Local Committees, the University of Thessaly and the Larissa municipal authority, Manolis Stephanakis of Technogramma Printing House, Emily Diamandopoulou, Founder, Rhyme and Reason Language Services, Sklia Kiki, text modulator, **and lastly but not last the Sponsors.** Above all, to the participants and authors who did not spare time, effort and costs to come and contribute to the success of the Congress and the following Publication. To all of them we are deeply grateful. Our goal was to publish a volume containing an array of interesting contributions to the History of Nephrology. If we succeeded in this, the readers will judge.

Ioannis Stefanidis
President of the Congress
President IAHN

Janusz Ostrowski
Past-President IAHN

Athanasios Diamandopoulos
Chairman Publishing Committee