

# First Medical Olympiad

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Original papers of social interest from all medical specialties are not usually presented in Medical Meetings. In our financially and socially difficult days, the need for medical contribution to support the needs of our society is more than welcome. Governments around the world issue regulations or laws addressed to physicians suggesting that they should not overprescribe and thus, not to overspend public money and not to possibly harm their patients.

Hippocrates in his well known Hippocratic oath, states that: "I shall use my judgment to help people...". May we note that it is a much greater pleasure for a physician to help a patient than to accomplish a possible reward for overprescribing. It has been said: "... men forget, God forgives but good or evil remains...".

The First International Medical Olympicus Contest, or one may call it, the First International Olympiad, which took place in Thessaloniki, Macedonia, Greece on 23-25 September 2011, seemed to offer useful knowledge to all colleagues who attended. Social interest may unite physicians of different specialties, because we all care for new medical developments that may support health in our family, friends, neighbors and our patients, all being members of the same society. It is common knowledge that although medicine has accomplished great progress, we still know only a small part of the whole medical truth. One example is that we do not know the exact origin of cancer neither we know how to cure most cancer types.

During the last four years, with the main support of the University of Thessaloniki and of the Nuclear Medicine Society of Thessaloniki, we have planned and organized this first International Medical Olympicus Contest or First Medical

Olympiad. Three years ago, a pre-medical International Medical Olympicus Meeting experimentally in Nuclear Medicine took place in Thessaloniki and was quite successful. Friends-colleagues from abroad attending this meeting fully agreed that we may proceed with our plans to organize the first such International Medical Olympiad.

In the First Medical Olympiad colleagues from 14 countries, from US, Europe, Asia and Australia participated. National advisors from various countries helped very much indeed to the success of this Meeting. Thirty-two papers from all medical specialties were finally selected as original and of social interest for oral presentation. Golden plated and silver awards were offered to the best of these papers.

The overall impression of the participants to this Meeting is expressed in some of their correspondence: "...We are proud to participate in this event of the 1st Medical Olympiad and we enjoyed the whole program...", "... It was really a nice experience to have attended Medical Olympicus contest where all the disciplines of medical science were integrated. Since it was first venture of its kind, I am very sure it shall grow in time and shall draw a huge response next time...", "... I believe that the Meeting was greatly successful because enlightened various aspects of contemporary medicine...", "...The Congress was very interesting and of high scientific value for me and my collaborators...", "...I am glad that someone from my University presented the Country, I was very pleased that these colleagues got so publicity for their work in your Meeting...".

Let us hope that this fruitful event will be often repeated in the future and present more medical knowledge for the benefit of those who suffer in our societies. 



*Achilleion palace where Empress Elisabeth of Austria stayed while recovering from her illness, in Corfou island, in western Greece. The statue shows the hero Achilles dying after injured by an arrow from his opponent, Paris.*