



National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens



**FOUNDING CONGRESS
ΙΔΡΥΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΟΜΟΤΙΜΩΝ ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΩΝ**

Role of Emeriti in the dissemination of knowledge and culture in Europe

**SEPTEMBER 29-30 and OCTOBER 1, 2016
ATHENS, GREECE**

Under the Auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic
Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos

Υπό την Αιγίδα της Α.Ε. του Προέδρου της Δημοκρατίας
Κυρίου Προκοπίου Παυλοπούλου

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS
ΤΟΜΟΣ ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΕΩΝ**



*The Abduction of Europe
Bowl, Attica, 370 B.C.*

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Natale de Santo (*University of Naples*)
Lorenzo Pinna (*University of Padua*)
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WELCOME LETTER

We welcome the colleagues from all over Europe and Greece to this Founding Congress, which has as its aim to establish a European Association of emeriti and retired Professors.

The aims of this Association can be briefly summarized as follows:

The creation and/or preservation of ties among academics and professors emeriti all over Europe.

The collaboration of European Professors Emeriti in conducting research projects or in producing and publishing meritorious scientific work.

The submission of proposals to the relevant authorities with respect to the study of issues related to graduate and post graduate education or offering courses to the general public with a view to contributing to restructuring curricula or other sections of learning, where such needs exist.

The exchange of knowledge and ideas stemming from various scientific fields, visual and performing arts.

The active cooperation among European scientists across various academic fields via the organization of meetings, colloquia or conferences of interdisciplinary and intra-cultural interests and the creation of a "Think Tank".

The moral, scientific, legal counselling and material support to colleagues and their families and also to every needy individual.

Further aims may be provided in the Founding Declaration.

The Abstracts published in this supplement pertain to the aims of the Association that we are planning.

We would like to thank the Athens Medical Society for its generous offer to publish the Abstracts of the meeting in its official journal.

The Executive Committee, Professors Emeriti

Dennis V. Cokkinos
Dionysios Spinellis
University of Athens

Lorenzo Pinna
University of Padua

Natale G de Santo
2nd University
of Naples

George Vasilikiotis
University
of Thessaloniki

ABSTRACTS ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΕΙΣ

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SESSIONS I-III ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΕΣ I-III

THE FOUNDATION OF A EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI

Dennis V. Cokkinos

*Medical School, University of Athens, Biomedical Research
Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece
e-mail: dcokkinos@bioacademy.gr*

University Professors who retire from their position in current times, whether designated emeriti or not, still have a lot to offer to their alma mater, their country and to our society in general. Apart from their personal efforts, they could be more successful in achieving these goals if included in a wider circle of colleagues with common aspirations. Unfortunately, associations of retired Professors in Europe and the world in general are few and not interactive. We aim to found such a European Association of Professors Emeriti which will also include all retired academic teachers, it will have an international character as well, encompassing retired Professors of Universities all over the world as Associate members. Its goals can be summarized as follows: The creation and/or conservation of ties among academics and emeriti all over Europe. The collaboration of European professors emeriti in conducting research projects or in producing and publishing scientific work. Submitting proposals to the relevant authorities with respect to the study of issues related to graduate, post graduate education or offering courses to the general public. The exchange of knowledge and ideas stemming from various scientific fields, visual and performing arts. The active cooperation among European scientists-across various academic fields via the organization of meetings, colloquia or conferences of interdisciplinary and intra-cultural interest, on an individual basis, but also co-ordination among Societies, Academies and other organizations with similar scientific intellectual, cultural and public benefit aspirations. The moral, scientific, legal counseling and material support to colleagues and their families but also to every needy individual. By submitting opinions and proposals on important issues of our Society.

We thus believe that since a teacher is for life, we, retired and Emeriti Professor are called to continue our vocation which is education and quest of truth and justice. In these difficult times for Europe and our world, education and knowledge become of

paramount importance. We must seek to fulfill our obligation to our fellow citizens.

OLD AGE, NOT ONLY DISEASES: THE HUMAN CAPITAL OF AGE

Natale Gaspare De Santo

*Department of Nephrology Faculty of Medicine, University
Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy
e-mail: nataleg.desanto@unina2.it*

Old age is not only diseases. Not only incontinence pads. Not only urine stench—as maliciously written by Amos Oz. However, in no case old age shall be seen as a state of resources aimed at younger generations. Soon the world will make a new experience- which will be intriguing to study and to live—a society characterized by an excess of old persons. Old age is a creative season. A creativity which is at the same time productive and auto-regenerating and may well represent the occasion to meditate on the old people of the Bible, as well as on the Small experiments of happiness (Hendrik Groen, 2015), or better yet on a long lasting experiment of happiness and an occasion for pondering on Youth, the movie by Paolo Sorrentino, chanted as the Enchanted mountain by Eugenio Scalfari.

Old age is a strange season of life—for which the Swedish writer Widmark, some years ago could not advise more than preparedness to end in the hands of euthanasic organizations, in order to not deprive young generations of their rights. Old age, a process, as hypothesized by Lidia Ravera (Gliscaduti, 2015) wherein one is young up to thirty years and is trained to command, take everything on. Thus between 30 and 60 years of age one possesses everything. At completion of sixty years humans have only the right for a farewell dinner and to be confined, separated definitely from the family, from all beloved, as also hypothesized by Lidia Ravera, who, immediately has written a second novel where she supports an opposite opinion by having as models two eighty-year-old persons making love (Piangi Pure).

Recently we have organized an international conference in Naples on the Human Capital of Age. The idea behind the conference was generated by the data resulting from a research made by Italian scientists, on what emeriti or retired clinical professors do. The inquiry, made in 20 universities in five continents, showed that emeriti professors are creative and the majority of them produces at least a book or a high-impact paper per year. However, many of them produced up to 11 papers per year (N.G. De Santo et al,

Quarterly J of Medicine 2014, L'Acropoli 2014). In fact, in USA an employer may not force a tenured faculty to retire at a certain age. Ictus or myocardial infarction do. In fact young people grant innovation but teams made of old and young scientists produce epochal ideas when direct by the young, as demonstrated by Guimerà in Science a few years ago.

The conference on The Human Capital of Age hosts philosophers, experts of aging, university professors, artists, famous writers, and people from the entertainment industry to explain that old age is creative. As congress venue we have selected Naples—a young city, its youth causes reduced funding for health by the Ministry of Health—in order to discuss about industrious aging, not characterized by weeping on the limitations connected with aging (Stephan Klein, *la Sostanza di cui è fatta la vita*, 2015). So aging is not seen as a deconstruction of death and of immortality as suggested by Zygmunt Bauman (*Mortalità ed altre strategie di vita*, 2012). As a further proof, "Jovanotti has recently addressed young people of intermediate age with his song *Glilmmortali* (The Immortals), Madonna has gone beyond the division old/young and at almost 60 year old she looks as hot as when she was 20 years old, while Carmen dell'Orefice—a model for Dali, still wears shorts and high heels" (Maria Luisa Agnese, 2015).

Having reached the age when it happens that someone on the subway gets up to give him a seat, "Marc Augé (*Everyone Dies Young. Time without Age*, 2016)" delves into his personal memories to develop a reflection, acute and sensitive, on the passing of time. "I know my age, I can declare it, but I do not believe in it", writes the great anthropologist, "to highlight the difference between time and age. Why are the others to say that we are old, to define ourselves following clichés, but this label remains superficial and far from what we feel inside us ... so, old age does not exist. Of course, the bodies wear out, but the subjectivity somehow remains out of time and that is how everyone dies young." [personal translation from the Italian edition]

Many great examples have shown that ageing is not synonymous with loss of a creativity.

Meyer Friedman and Gerald W. Friedland have studied Medicine's 10 greatest discoveries (1998) and showed that the discoverers had a mean age of 32.4 years De Santo NG, *Per la ricerca clinica*, 2004). We may add that Vesal, Crawford Long, Nikolaj Anichkow, were just over their twenties at the time of their major discoveries, as it was Albert Einstein who at age of 26 (1905) had made his most outstanding discoveries. Of course innovation is associated with young age. However young and old scientist working together produce epochal ideas both "in artistic and scientific fields" (Roger Guimerà, *Science*, 2005). Thus we understand the reasons which urged the Nobel neurobiologist Rita Levi Montalcini to write *L'assonellamanica a brandelli* (1998), wherein she confuted William Butler Yeats and demonstrated that he was wrong in nurturing the idea that "An aged man is but a paltry thing. A tattered coat/upon a sting, unless soul claps its hands and sing,/ and louder sing for every tatter in its mortal dress". In fact her list of successful old men includes Michelangelo Buonarroti, Galileo Galilei, Bertrand Russell, David Ben Gurion, Pablo Picasso. She clearly missed Rembrandt.

The data together point to the need of scientific teams made of young and old scientists, but directed by the younger component. Old professor's should be able to continue to work since "their vocation is for life" (Dennis V. Cokkinos, 2016). Generating a European Association of Emeriti and retired professors is a great challenge.

THE PRINCIPLES OF HONORARY TITLE AWARDING "PROFESSOR EMERITUS" AT THE UNIVERSITIES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Miroslav Mydlík, Katarína Derzsiová

IVth Internal Clinic, University Hospital of L. Pasteur and of the Medical Faculty of P. J. Šafárik University, Košice, Slovak Republic

e-mail: miroslav.mydlik@unlp.sk

The principles of honorary title awarding Professor Emeritus at the Universities in the Slovak Republic are based on Rector's Decision. The decision determines the award procedure of this honorary title. Honorary title Professor Emeritus can only be awarded to professors older than 70 years for their important scientific and educational contribution. The Dean of the Faculty has to debate and approve the proposal of awarding the honorary title Professor Emeritus by the Scientific Council of Faculties and then it is sent to the Rector of University by whom the honorary title is awarded. Professor Emeritus is not a member of the academic community of the Faculty or University but he has the right to act in academic events. Professor Emeritus according to his abilities continues in the scientific research and educational activities at the Faculty, respectively also at the University. He can actively participate in the educational process as a lecturer and consultant on all levels and forms of education (especially in the context of doctoral studies). He can work in expert committees at the Faculty, University and in scientific institutions and national and international authorities, in the editorial boards of scientific journals, in the expert committee of national and international competence. Professor Emeritus has the right to an appropriate workplace with adequate equipment and he is stated in the relevant list of the staff of the Faculty as a Professor Emeritus. He has an access to the information system of Faculty and University and has the opportunity to use the services of Faculty and University under the applicable legislation.

TASK WORKING GROUPS ON INTERDISCIPLINARY INTELLECTUAL AREAS

Miltiades I. Karayannis

Department of Chemistry University of Ioannina, Greece
e-mail: mkarayannis@chem.uoa.gr

With this intervention, I propose the creation, within the European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE), of several Task Force

Groups, or Task Working Groups, on various interdisciplinary intellectual areas which are of broad social interest and have an impact to the society. Fields initially suggested include: University Education in Europe, Cultural Heritage and Art History, Environmental Awareness, Ethics in Practicing Science, Human Rights, et al. The list, of course, is open to suggestions to the members of EAPE.

For each Task Working Group, a Head Co-Ordinator will be selected and appointed who will establish, organize and co-ordinate that particular group. Any member of the Association, or other scientists, can be invited by the Head co-Ordinator, to join the group. The Head-Coordinator will be responsible to submit and present a formal Annual Report to the Administrative Committee of the Association which will be circulated to all members during annual meetings.

SESSION V ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ V

AN EMERITUS PROFESSOR'S VIEW UPON 45 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN PATHOLOGY

Niki J. Agnantis

*School of Health Sciences, Department of Medicine
University of Ioannina
e-mail: agnantin@gmail.com*

An Emeritus Professor of Medicine could be active in various fields, such as: teaching, lecturing, advising PhD thesis, guiding young physicians to writing a scientific paper and, most importantly, contributing to the field of continuing postgraduate education, in his/her specialty. After my election as Professor of Pathology in November 1990 in the Medical School of the University of Ioannina, I was seriously thinking how to fulfill the void in continuing education. In the Spring of 1995, after the preparation of the bylaws, I applied to the Executive Committee of the European Society of Pathology and was officially appointed as the Director and Organizer of such Courses. One year later, the first IUCP (Ioannina University Courses in Pathology), in the field of Gynaecological Pathology/Oncology was held, and its success gave me the strength to continue organizing IUCP biannually. Needless to mention that after my retirement on August 31st of 2007 and up to now, this is my main activity as a Professor Emeritus.

After the experience gained from the first course, a number of distinguished Clinicians were gradually incorporated in the list of invited speakers. Each course has been designed for 30-35 Pathologists and Clinical Colleagues related to the subject, and its duration is approximately 2 days (~13½ credit hours). Over the years, besides Greek students, we also had participants from the

Balkans and other European and Middle East countries. Diplomas are given for regular attendance only. At the end of each Course students are asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire. In the First Series sixteen courses were offered, in the Second Series twelve courses have been offered and we are currently in the Third Series. The latest IUCP course (the 33rd) on CNS Pathology/Oncology was held on June 2016.

During my long career in organizing the IUCP, I have faced several challenges and I have learned a lot from hands-on experience. I believe that the organization of the IUCP has significantly contributed to the field of Continuing Medical Education in Europe.

BACK TO THE FUTURE! CONSULTING FOR AN ADEQUATE ANTIBODY SCREENING IN ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Ilias Doxiadis

*Immunology Department University Hospital Essen-
Duisburg, Transplantation Immunology, Leiden University
Medical Center, Leipzig, Germany
e-mail: ilidox@planet.nl*

Transplantation related laboratory activities involve both the accurate, proficiency testing controlled work such as molecular typing for the HLA specificities and serological antibody screening and the "helicopter" view on what is new, modern, and cost effective for future work. The duty of a laboratory consultant is to focus on both items. Currently new methods evade the laboratories but many of those will have a very short halftime with respect to their use mostly because of complexity and low yield. My personal view on future HLA diagnostic laboratories is primarily focused on regional aspects. The needs in eg. Greece are different than the ones for example in Germany or in Cyprus. In Germany medium sized centres (3,000 persons pa) should use real time PCR flexible typing methods and a solid phase based serological antibody screening testing. Extended typing using the "NGS=next generation sequencing" methodology for a restricted number of typings (N=1,000) would increase the survival possibilities of the laboratory. Larger laboratories will have to invest on high through-put typing methods in addition to the above mentioned ones. In Greece definition of medium or large size is different. Besides the number of persons to be typed and screened pa regional (Athens vs. Thessaloniki) aspects have to be taken into consideration. The admittedly never occurring ideal way would be to centralize the original typing for registries and patients and to decentralise screening and crossmatching. Finally, for the decisive typing result only CE marked assays should be used, a fact usually forgotten by laboratories and governmental authorities. This could be done in a decentralised way to keep the expertise in different regions. The times of homemade methods is past controlled assays the future?

THE ROLE OF PROFESSORS EMERITI IN DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE IN EUROPE AND IN THE WORLD

Vasiliy Gritsenko¹, Tatiana Danilchenko²

¹Vice-Rector on Scientific and research work in Krasnodar State institute of culture, Krasnodar, Russia, ²Vice-Rector on Scientific and research work in Krasnodar State institute of culture, Krasnodar, Russia
e-mail: postmodernist@mail.ru
e-mail: semiotike@rambler.ru

The principles of the European rationality have been laid in Antiquity: logic, ethics and Aristotle's politics, Euclid's geometry, mechanic of Archimedes, Paideia, antique democracy, Roman Law, roads, water supply system and so forth. During an era of the Middle Ages many attributes of learning were created: Universities, universal language of science, bachelor degree and magistracy, universals.

Scientists and philosophers of Europe have formulated the principles of the scientific picture of the world (Newton, Diderot, Leibniz, Mendeleyev, Planck, Einstein, etc.), a paradigm of evolution of the nature (Kant, Laplace, Darwin, Mendel, Prigozhin, Moiseyev), laws of society (Conte, Marx, Weber, etc.), ideology for the Old and New World on the basis of the principles of the right, social ideals of freedom, equality, a brotherhood (Locke, Voltaire), the principles of the world, beauty and absolute good (Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Berdyaev), "new thinking" (Gorbachev). However the modern situation is characterized by an aggravation of a number of antagonisms:

- 1) economic stagnation;
- 2) spontaneous migration;
- 3) crisis of traditional Christian values, religious fundamentalism and extremism;
- 4) over-exploitation of intelligence and the intellectuals in information society.

The current situation can be corrected only by a humanitarian method. Creation of European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE) can promote development of universal dialogue, humanity, the world and protection of the rights of intellectuals:

- a) members of EAPE will have to create Coordination council;
- b) every year EAPE science and education in Europe will have to adopt the Declaration "estimates and recommendations";
- b) The declaration will go to parliament of the European Union, to the European governments, the international organizations, UNESCO, the UN, to universities;
- c) members of EAPE will have an opportunity for promotion of provisions of the Declaration at universities of Europe;
- d) EAPE will make decisions on protection of the rights of students, scientists, professors;
- e) EAPE will lobby development of the humanities and education as means of upgrade of culture on the principles of positive identity, competence, an inklyuziya, dialogue, humanity, tolerance, social unity.

SCIENCE, POLITICS AND TECHNOLOGY: THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE

Roberto Guidorzi

System Theory, School of Engineering, University of Bologna, Italy
e-mail: roberto.guidorzi@unibo.it

The most important revolution of the last century has probably been the digital one and the associated transition from an "analog" world to a "digital" one has had an unprecedented impact on almost all sectors of our society. It can be compared, perhaps, only to the introduction of movable type printing five centuries ago. What I would like to emphasize is the impact of digital technologies on the diffusion of knowledge, on learning paradigms and even on governing because of the easy and inexpensive possibility of collecting, almost in real time, the opinions of a large number of citizens.

However, as Robbie McClintock points out in his brilliant book *Power and Pedagogy*, technological innovation without political vision leaves the quality of life unimproved and political visions of the future can be consistent only when they rely on the solid roots of past experience.

We live, at present, inside a political vision, the European Union, that has not yet been able to achieve a consistent sharing of common objectives and that does not seem always completely aware that economic development is certainly an important tool but cannot be the only goal.

The knowledge, experience and willingness to contribute to the development of a future society focused on man and on universally accepted values that professors from so many countries are demonstrating with their presence at this meeting is a reason of hope. What I would like to suggest is setting up permanent boards dedicated to specific sectors and proposing to the EC to recognize consulting and propositional roles to these new international entities.

THE CHANGING FACE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND THE ROLE OF THE EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Panayotis N. Soucacos

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Orthopaedic Research & Education Center, Attikon University Hospital, University of Athens, School of Medicine, President, Board of Directors, University of Ioannina, Greece
e-mail: psoukakos@ath.forthnet.gr

Medical knowledge has been expanding exponentially over the last three decades. By some estimates, the body of medical knowledge doubles from every 18 months to 5 years, and by 2020 will double every 63 days. As a result, medical educators are challenged to reform the medical curriculum with innovative ways that accommodate this increasing burden of information to ensure that students have the required knowledge and skills base

necessary to function. Taking into account the three principles of medical education: (1) medical education is a continuum, (2) requires the integration of basic science and clinical medicine, and (3) should entail self-directed, life-long learning, it is apparent that no single curriculum stands adequately alone. Based on current learning theories, which stress that active learning enhances retention it also becomes clear that no single teaching method provides supremacy over another. Hence, educators must devise programs that maximize the benefits from different curricula using multidisciplinary, integrated approach with several teaching methodologies, such as computer-assisted learning (CAL), peer-teaching, problem-based learning and team-based learning to enhance active learning and critical thinking. This integrated teaching model requires a considerably larger teaching faculty than traditional curricula. The relative shortage of experienced teaching faculty (for example the current faculty crisis in India) along with growing evidence in the medical literature that supports the positive effects of role modeling for the demonstration of skills, feedback and emulation of professional behaviors, has led a growing number of medical schools to look at the Emeriti for assistance. Today, emeriti professors play an important role in teaching (*venia legendi*), as well as in participation in examinations and research. In conclusion, Universities and Medical Schools are able to achieve continued excellence via the active contribution of the Emeritus Professor in both productive teaching and research.

THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI IN NORTHERN GREECE, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FORMALLY JOINING OUR ACTIVITIES WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN EUROPE IN THE INTEREST OF SPREADING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

George Vasilikiotis

Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, President of Association of Emeriti Professors of Northern, Greece
e-mail: george@porfyra.com

The Association of Emeritus Professors of Northern Greece was founded at the close of the 20th century. The main universities in Northern Greece are Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, the largest in the country, the University of Ioannina, Democritus University, and the University of Macedonia. Although it is comparatively young association, it plays an active role to advocate on matters of academic, social, and international importance. Recent indicative activities include the organization of a National Conference to examine the admittance policies for Greek Universities. The conference examined relative procedures from 15 European countries, and received input from the Greek Political parties, to obtain a deeper understanding of the overall issues. The findings and recommendations from this conference were sent to the Ministry of Education for review and are under consideration.

The Association joined with the Aristotle University Medical School to present a public event highlighting the work of the Clinic of Ophthalmology, whose recent work in Central Africa is of a highly valuable medical and humanitarian scope.

Joining with the Association of Professors Emeriti of the University of Athens, we proposed the nomination of the Greek Aegean Islands for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of their valiant efforts and heroism, sometimes at peril to their own lives and livelihoods, as they voluntarily helped to rescue thousands of refugees from Syria and other countries.

Looking forward, we believe that the positive impact of ours and other societies' efforts can be greatly increased by the formation of a larger European Association of Emeriti Professors. Such a move is rightly timed as well, given the upcoming 60th Anniversary of the European Union in March of 2017.

SESSION VII ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ VII

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY: TEACHING ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI TO THE DISSEMINATION OF EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND SCIENCE

Hartmut Frank

*Editor "Toxicological and Environmental Chemistry"
Cheesfondue Workshops, University of Bayreuth, Germany*
e-mail: hartmut.frank@uni-bayreuth.de

A tradition in democracy and justice is the European contribution to the world's culture. Based upon the Aristotelean Nichomachean Ethics, the quest for fairness has continued through the Christian concepts of charity and love, Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative, all the way to Hans Jonas' Imperative of Responsibility. Finding the balance between freedom and responsibility has been a major prerequisite for the development of science and its derivative technology in the past centuries, with René Descartes' Discourse on the Method as key contribution.

The prime goal of science is the search for truth, taught by professors in universities and academies. On one hand, search for "truth" has a strongly rational aspect, especially in the transitory process from scientific knowledge to its application as technology. However, the strong belief in this fundamentally materialistic way of trying to find "truth" has its limits, for instance discussed in Daniel Sarewitz' Frontiers of Illusion. This, on the other hand, leads directly to the conclusion that the present educational paradigm is insufficient, as pointed out by Edgar Morin in his Seven Complex Lessons in Education for the Future, suggesting the need for an empathic component in education.

The development of such new paradigm is difficult at the present practical circumstances under which academic educators must

operate, subjected to continuous societal pressure of proving efficiency and justifying the required financial investments. Professors Emeriti are in principle free from such pressures, but still have long experience in science education and usually have good international connections; therefore, the development of such next steps towards a new educational paradigm (and cultural advancement) under a global perspective could/should be their most noble task

MENTORING OUR KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE

Liv Mjelde

Department of Vocational Pedagogy, University of Oslo, Norway
e-mail: mjeldeliv@gmail.com

Formal academic education (with its focus on conceptual learning), together with vocational education (with its stress on practical, experiential, work-related learning) form a classic theme in education theory and the sociology of knowledge. Education systems as they have developed to date provide a hegemonic view that separates the academic and the vocational, knowledge from experience, theory from practice, thought from action. What remain unsolved challenges are the academic world's remoteness from the world of work, as well as the traditional contradictions between the work of hand and the work of mind, between intellectual and manual labour, generally as well as within professions and trades. ICT innovations are changing labour processes on the manual labour market; they restructure production at an accelerating speed, constantly creating demands for new skills in all trades and professions. These developments are fundamental to challenging practices of teaching and learning in educational institutions. Research from neuroscience and the social sciences both have inspired new questions and critical debates in educational theory. The separation between "hand, mind and heart", itself a social construct, is currently under question. Learning theory rooted in master-apprentice traditions fundamentally questions the ways in which education systems separate us unnaturally from our own humanity. Craft knowledge, experience and maturity are central to teaching and mentoring. A better education for all requires an active interweaving of heart and mind with conceptualization and the exercise of knowledge in practice.

THE EMERITUS PROFESSORS, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF FRANCE

Raymond Ardaillou

National Academy of Medicine, Paris, France
e-mail: raymond.ardaillou@academie-medecine.fr

The Academy of medicine was founded in 1820 by King Louis XVIII. The founding ordinance stipulated: «This Academy will be specifi-

cally created to provide advice to the government on all matters related to public health...It will examine and investigate any subject that may contribute to the various branches of the Art of healing». The Academy is an autonomous institution that is responsible for its own composition and choices, independent of government and that zealously guards its independence of thought and expression.

The Academy includes full members (135) and corresponding members (160). It is composed mainly of physicians, surgeons, and includes in a smaller amount pharmacists, veterinary doctors and independent members. There are also foreign members (170). In France, the age of retirement for University professors varies between 65 and 69 years. Most of the members of the Academy are professors of medicine and are elected after the age of 60 years. Therefore, emeritus professors play a major role in the functioning of the Academy. Being retired, they can devote much of their time to the academic activities. Owing to them, the Academy is multidisciplinary, efficient and independent. Corresponding members are elected younger. Some of them do not become full members. When retired and nominated emeritus, they participate in the activities of the Academy in the same conditions as the full members. The government and the parliament often request an advice of the Academy on specific issues. Members of the Academy are invited to speak before committees of members of the Parliament preparing the laws, each time these laws are relative to public health. The Academy is also requested to write reports considering the different aspects of a medical question and proposing recommendations. The Academy also provides unsolicited advice when it judges a question must be brought to the knowledge of the government. Academicians prepare these reports in specialized committees or working groups. Every Tuesday afternoon, the Academy is in session. It is considered as the traditional venue for communicating medical news. Presentations are followed by lively discussions and, if judged opportune, the conclusions are summarized in a press release. Prizes are awarded each year by the Academy. Academicians, divided into specialized juries, examine the applications of the candidates and choose the winners. Many academicians are interested in the history of medicine. The Academy possesses one of the richest medical libraries in the world with more than 400 000 volumes, 113 incunabula over 10 000 books printed between 1471 and 1810, 1200 archive boxes starting from the 18th century allowing the academicians to have at their disposal an important documentation. Academicians are very active in the development of relations with academies and medical institutions of other countries. The Academy is one of the founding members of the Federation of the European academies of medicine. Moreover, the Academy has created a Foundation to develop its relations with foreign countries by organizing joint meetings. All these activities are the proof that emeritus members of medical universities belonging to the Academy can provide an help to the political decisions about public health, support the medical research in France and contribute to original studies in the field of history of medicine.

SESSION VIII ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ VIII

PASSIVE SMOKING FROM HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVES

Panagiotis Behrakis

Institute of Public Health, the American College of Greece President, Scientific Committee, European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention, Biomedical Research Foundation Academy of Athens, Greece
e-mail: panbehrakis@gmail.com

Involuntary smoking (passive or “environmental” tobacco smoke) is the exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke (SHS) which is a mixture of exhaled mainstream smoke and side stream smoke released from a smouldering cigarette or other smoking device (cigar, pipe, water pipe, etc.) and diluted with ambient air. Passive smoking in closed public spaces is a widespread form of violence, oriented mainly against small children and weak population groups, such as those suffering from lung or heart problems. The problem is particularly acute for pregnant women and employees in those premises, who without defenses are subject to inadvertent smoking and suffer heavy consequences on a personal, family, and societal level.

Passive smoking exposure takes place at home (Smoking parent to nonsmoking child, Smoking spouse to nonsmoking spouse), Public places (Offices, Bars, restaurants) and vehicles (Cars, public transportation).

603,000 deaths were attributable to second-hand smoke in 2004, which was about 1.0% of worldwide mortality.

- 47% of deaths in women,
- 28% in children,
- 26% in men.

The situation in Greece appears to be out of control, as the laws of our country (Law 3730/08 and 3868/10) are not enforced, and the international agreements (World Health Organization, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Article 8, Guidelines on Protection from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke) are violated in order to accommodate specific economic interests.

On 6 June 2013, in order to confront this situation, 10.329 Greek Students Demanded Passive Smoking to be treated as a Human Rights Issue

This is the petition:

We, as academic citizens of this country, take a decisive stand and ask from the European Commission and the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP) to act in all directions in order to highlight and to recognize officially that passive smoking is a major international issue, which violates the human rights of health, work and the protection of women and children. Passive smoking is considered to be a major problem worldwide. For this reason, declarations on human rights are listed above.

- The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) (1948)
- The International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- The convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
- The convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989)
- International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1996)
- World Health Organization, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2007)
- Lisbon Treaty (2009), Article 8. Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke

In this important aspect the Emeriti are called to play a significant role

THE PRACTICE OF RESEARCH

Guido Bellinghieri¹, Domenico Santoro², Vincenzo Savica³

¹School of Health Sciences, Department of Medicine, University of Messina, Italy, ²School of Health Sciences, Department of Medicine, University of Messina, Italy, ³Monroy Institute of Biomedicine and Molecular Immunology of National Council in Palermo, President of the International Association for the History of Nephrology, Palermo, Italy

e-mail: gbellinghieri@hotmail.com

e-mail: domenico.santoro@unime.it

e-mail: visavica@tin.it

Doing research in medicine means creating an interaction individual-group-organisation both because driven by “scientific curiosity”, which is not always able to give results which are directly applicable and because you feel the need to respond to issues involving the human being with his suffering.

To do that, you must know the practice-knowledge bond, i.e. creating that link which can give scientific answers to operational problems.

The research is a complex process, which puts at stake individual, group, organisational factors and it requires skills, including intuition, inductive reasoning, the thorough knowledge of the scientific method in order to pursue specific goals.

Basic research, also called fundamental or pure research, has as its primary objective the advancement of knowledge and the theoretical understanding of the relations between the different variables involved in a particular process, applied research is carried out in order to find specific and practical solutions to problems. Its primary focus is not the advancement of knowledge, but rather the exploitation of knowledge for practical purposes; it is mostly done in universities, it is descriptive, and in general, it is based on previous research. The line between basic and applied research is not often so sharp and the criterion to classify a particular research is rather defined by the alleged time interval

in which the research will develop before its application.

Since 1967, a group of Nephrologists, composed of a full professor, an associate professor and researcher, working at the University of Messina, on the basis of the basic principles of research have developed a program of research, which with time gave excellent results.

Today the above group, working in three scientific fields (carnitine and uremia, sexual dysfunction in patients with chronic renal failure, phosphorus and kidney disease) have produced a total of around 5000 citations and an impact factor total of approximately 600.

The main factors of scientific success in the group were cohesion, commitment consistency, reliability of the members, the originality of the investigations and love for the patients.

FROM CLINICAL DATA TO MOLECULAR BIOLOGY A CONTINUOUS CREATIVE PATH

Catherine Dacou-Voutetakis

*Pediatric Endocrinology, First Department of Pediatrics,
Medicine, Athens University School of Medicine, Greece
e-mail: adacou@med.uoa.gr*

A question frequently raised is whether or not the Emeritus Professor has any role to play as researcher, clinician or educator. Herein, I will describe a research paradigm from the period of Emeritus Professorship which might possibly respond to the question posed. In 30 patients with short stature, caused by pituitary stalk interruption syndrome (PSIS) or pituitary hypoplasia (PH), nosologic entities of unknown etiology, the underlying molecular defect was searched for. Searching for molecular defects in a disorder is a journey into the chaos of the genome, if the frame of genes to be examined is not narrowed by unique clinical features, as emerged in our cohort. Specifically, 3 out of the 30 patients, also had single central incisor, a rare midline defect encountered in holoprocencephaly. Moreover, 1 of these 3 cases also presented loss of the short arm of chromosome 18, a locus harboring the TGIF gene, a holoprocencephaly-related gene. These observations prompted the search in holoprocencephaly-related gene mutations (TGIF, SHH, SIX3) in our patients.

DNA analysis disclosed mutations in TGIF and SHH genes and the hypothesis was formulated that PSIS or PH belong to the wide spectrum of holoprocencephaly phenotypes. It is very important to uncover the molecular defect in a genetically determined disorder for various reasons but mainly for genetic counseling. The data derived were published in the JCEM (IF: 5.5, Tatsi C, Sertedaki A, Voutetakis A, Valavani E, Magiakou MA, Kanakagantenbein C, Chrousos GP, Dacou-Voutetakis C). Subsequent literature reports confirmed our findings. The paradigm described enforces the view that after "graduating" the Emeritus Professor can still answer scientific questions and help young scientists in their initial steps.

POSTPRANDIAL DYSMETABOLISM-A REAL HEALTH THREAT-SOME OLDER AND NEWER DATA FROM ONGOING WORK OF OUR GROUP

**Nicholas Katsilambros, Nicholas Tentolouris,
Alexander Kokkinos, Christos Liaskos, Despina Perrea**

*First Department of Propaedeutic, Department of
Experimental Surgery, Medical School, University of
Athens, Greece*

e-mail: nicholaskatsilambros@gmail.com

Postprandial dysmetabolism is characterized by excessive rise in postprandial glucose and triglyceride levels in serum, and is an independent risk factor for development of cardiovascular disease, even in non-diabetic subjects. Main data concerning earlier and newer data of our group can be summarized as follows:

- There is not always any relation between fasting and postprandial triglyceride (TG) values. Thus postprandial levels can be relatively low in spite of moderately high fasting levels and vice versa
 - Subjects with microalbuminuria present with higher postprandial TG levels compared with normal persons.
 - Arterial endothelial function -as estimated by the flow mediated dilatation method- is affected after eating a rich in saturated fat meal, but not after ingestion of a meal rich in monounsaturated fat.
 - The addition of vinegar to a test meal results in a decrease in glycaemia in diabetic persons. This happens only after ingestion of a high glycaemic index meal and not after consumption of an isocaloric and isoglucidic meal.
 - There is, especially in diabetic persons, a relative activation of some coagulation factors after meal ingestion, which is clearly diminished after oral glibenclamide administration.
 - Mice fed with a diet rich in saturated fat show over a period of six months an increase in serum LDL cholesterol, but a decrease when fed with monounsaturated fat. Interestingly mice fed with a comparable diet rich in both saturated and monounsaturated fat show also an impressive serum LDL cholesterol reduction.
- The above data further emphasize the importance of postprandial metabolic changes as potential atherogenic factors.

INCREASING LIFE EXPECTANCY AND PUBLIC HEALTH: THE NEED TO RECONSIDER DEMOGRAPHIC, BIOLOGICAL, FUNCTIONAL AND RETIREMENT AGE

Michael Kunze

*Department of Social Medicine, Medical University Vienna,
Austria*

e-mail: michael.kunze@meduniwien.ac.at

Life expectancy (at birth) is an indicator for the health status of a population and it is increasing worldwide, with many social, economical, and epidemiological consequences.

The reasons for this development are quite well understood

as a combination of medical and other influential factors like industrial productivity and political stability.

It is now time to reconsider definitions of age and ageing acknowledging the fact that only demographic age is a constant factor, but the individual and societal perception very often does not match with the changing age structure of e.g. European societies. The biological age does not necessarily reflect the demographic one, showing great individual variations based on genetic and life style factors, as well as biochemical markers.

The functional age is another parameter based on abilities, preferences and professional background of the single person. One of the political hypotheses is the following: there is no scientific evidence, neither medical, or psychological, or social, for fixed retirement ages as still in use in many countries.

Therefore a new and flexible approach is proposed based on the complex age status of an individual.

Increasing life expectancy offers many opportunities for individuals and societies; these have to be highlighted and medium term also integrated into political actions.

EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH AFTER RETIREMENT: A HURDLE RACE

Lorenzo A. Pinna

*Department of Biomedical Sciences and CNR
Neurosciences Institute, University of Padua, Italy
e-mail-mail lorenzo.pinna@unipd.it*

In Europe the age of retirement from either academic or non academic positions (roughly ranging between 65 to 70, depending on countries and institutions) coincides with a period of life where many senior investigators (PIs) have become optimally qualified to operate as group leaders and to conceive ingenious original research strategies. Not to spoil such a human capital – given the burdens and limits placed by laws and rules in force nearly in all European Countries – a number of favourable conditions need to be simultaneously fulfilled. Notably: 1. The availability of funding agencies still willing to support “ghost” investigators, devoid of academic position and formal connections with research institutes; 2. An institution ready to host retired researchers, providing them with space and basal facilities; since universities are not allowed to commit budget administration to retired personnel, it is also mandatory to find; 3. An external non-academic institution taking care of this; 4. Last but most important, a retired PI active in the field of experimental sciences must count on a team of young investigators still trusting in his/her intellectual guidance and ready to work under his/her supervision, without expecting any support to their academic career, except that coming from publishing good papers. Needless to mention that external

collaborations will represent an added value to consolidate the research activity of a retired PI.

In my presentation I will exemplify the general situation outlined above by recollecting my personal experience as a “retired PI”.

SCIENCE DOES NOT STOP WHEN YOU STEP DOWN: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORD BLOOD BANK AT THE BRFAA

Catherine Stavropoulos-Giokas

*Hellenic Cord Blood Bank of Biomedical Research
Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA), Greece
e-mail: cstavrop.@bioacademy.gr*

In recent years, cord blood (CB) has become a standard alternative source of Hematopoietic Stem Cells (HSC) to bone marrow or peripheral blood for allogeneic HSC transplantation mainly in patients who lack an HLA-matched donor, for the treatment of a number of malignant and non-malignant diseases.

The aim of a CBB is Cord Blood collection, the strict selection of the “BEST” CB Units and Processing (Isolation of Hematopoietic stem cells), the HLA Typing of selected units and Infectious Disease Testing, the Cryo-storage of processed selected CB Units and the Immediate release of CB for transplantation.

In 2003 the Hellenic Cord Blood Bank (HCBB) was founded in Biomedical Research Foundation, Academy of Athens (BRFAA). Its aim was:

To collect, process and store up to 20,000 unrelated cord blood donations for children or adults and selectively cryopreserve cord blood units with:

1. HLA haplotypes frequent in Greeks
2. HLA rare haplotypes in Greeks
3. HLA haplotypes from minorities and mix marriages

The HCBB has GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) facilities at the HCBB processing laboratory and has established an EFI accredited Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics laboratory which is currently using the most advanced technology available (Next Generation Sequencing). The HCBB has been accredited by the international organization of cellular therapies FACT-NetCord (Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapies), for the unrelated allogeneic transplantation since 2013.

Until now HCBB has released 20 cord blood units for transplantation in Greece and abroad for both children and adults and 3800 cord blood units are being stored for future clinical use.

More recently, the HCBB is expanding its horizons by developing a Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering Unit, according to the newest trends in advanced therapies.

The HCBB has also been involved with associations and organizations that promote the idea of volunteerism and public benefit.

SESSION IX ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΑ IX

MY EXPERIENCE AS PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

Giorgio Lenaz

*Department of Biochemistry, University of Bologna, Italy
e-mail: giorgio.lenaz@unibo.it*

I have been a Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry at the University of Bologna since 2012. My present academic activities (without reward) concern limited amount of teaching of Biochemistry to medical students and active research within a small group (i.e. counseling on research projects, discussion of results, paper reviewing for scientific journals). The present regulation of the activities of Professors Emeriti allows some independence (private office room with Wi-Fi connection, e-mail address and free access to library's e-journals subscriptions), however there are restrictions strongly limiting their performance. In my experience the major limitations are (a) the lack of participation in academic life, for the main reason of not being officially part of a Department, and the consequent lack of information of what is going on in our University; (b) the restrictions pertaining the official participation in research groups, thus preventing them to have access to public financing, not only as principal investigators of a project, but also as members of projects led by others. In my opinion, these restrictions should be removed. As for their more general roles, Professors Emeriti should be facilitated and encouraged in participating to international scientific conferences as well as in providing their experience both in teaching activities, particularly high level seminars as in PhD programs, and in educational activity in high schools and to the general people. Professors Emeriti could help disseminating correct information about Science and scientific research, exploiting both traditional media (lectures, meetings, TV) and the new possibilities offered by the Internet. The upcoming European Association could be involved in reviewing and evaluating the activities of the members.

THE ROLE OF EMERITUS PROFESSORS IN EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC POLICY

Emmanuel G. Fragkoulis

*Department of Biochemistry, University of Athens, Greece
e-mail: mfragoul@biol.uoa.gr*

The old Europe has always been known for its rich history tremendous cultural diversity many landmark discoveries. In our days scientific innovation is a major driver of Economic development, human progress and population health improvement. Although there is an overall positive impact of Universities in

contributing to the National and regional development of Science the major part of the Scientific policy is designed in Brussels. In our days scientific policy is based on the dogma "what your customer know about you" is more important than "what you know about customers" this in other word means that understanding how your customer and potential customer feel, think and behave is really important for developing effective products services and communications programs.

So the necessity of scientists to connect users of scientific endeavours with the producers is obvious and this is a duty between others and the Emeritus Professors. It is well known that Emeritus professors are persons of outstanding merit who have already had full professional status before he or she retired and the majority of them have a good knowledge of achievements in their scientific field. On the other hand they do not anymore have any administrative duties and they can communicate easily with customers and record their needs.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES: A ROLE FOR A PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Gregory Gregoriadis

*UCL Founder, Science Adviser, Xenetic Biosciences Inc. UCL
School of Pharmacy, London, United Kingdom
e-mail: gregoriadis@xeneticbio.com*

Scientific conferences on a given area of research are organized and held for the education of researchers working in that area. A number of scientists known for their expert knowledge on specific topics of the subject area are invited by the organizer to present their work. The end result is comprehensive coverage of the area in question. Thus, interested scientists increase their knowledge and the subject area is advanced in terms of knowledge consolidation. At the same time, a conference provides opportunities for scientists to make contacts leading to collaborative projects. It is evident that conferences are crucial to education and advancement of science.

The success of a scientific conference is dependent on the ability of the organizer to attract speakers of international repute and to construct a programme that is logical and well balanced. Success will also depend on whether the organizer is able to raise sufficient funds from academia, industry, and other funding entities.

A Professor Emeritus is potentially the ideal candidate to fulfill all requirements for putting together a successful conference. An Emeriti have already accumulated an enormous quantity of knowledge in their area of work, would have made numerous contacts with other scientists worldwide and, with the help of an organizing committee, would be likely to attract significant funds. Moreover, Emeriti would have sufficient time in their hands to focus on the challenge of organizing a successful conference that could be repeated, developing over the years into an established series.

THE STANDPOINT OF PROFESSORS EMERITI ON THE TEACHING OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

George Leontsinis

Department of Modern Greek History and History Didactics, President of the Society for the Theory, Research and Didactics of Local and General History University of Athens, Greece
e-mail-mail: gleon@primedu.uoa.gr

The aim of this paper is to refer to the importance of the teaching of European History in all three educational levels, as well as to suggestively indicate the necessity of the formulation of a coherent standpoint on its teaching by Emeriti Professors. The paper will be divided into three thematic sections. In the first section, I will indicate the importance of the teaching of European History within the context of the historical studies curricula of school education (Primary and Secondary) and University Education (Faculties of Education and Faculties of Humanities that give professional vocations to Primary and Secondary Education teachers). Nevertheless, since European History is already being taught in all three educational levels, I will propose, as the case may be, the strengthening of the educational programme of studies and the additional systematic interconnection of Greek history diachronically with the history of Europe as a whole, freed from idealistic or other connotations. Contemporary history science possesses those tools that could formulate the framework of the issue in question today.

A second point of reference would be the diachronic elevation of the historical presence of Greeks in the European Continent along with its cultural principles in a context of European realignments and hostile confrontations amongst its people. Nevertheless, it is recommended that emphasis should be given to the outsets of the European Civilization from the Early Modern period of the history of Europe (16th-18th centuries). The programme of studies should emphasize the continuities and the discontinuities of the cultural, intellectual, economic, political and social life of the people of Europe. The main parameter, that formulates the cultural underpinning of the European nations, is their turn towards the Ancient Greek and Roman literature, from the Renaissance period and during the period of the European Enlightenment onwards. This conjunction would reveal, via suitable ways of didactic presentation, the foundations of European Civilization which grounded on common principles and values, but also on the diversity of its people inside our communal European home. The third point of historical references during the teaching of European History is possible to be interconnected with the promotion of the European and World developments during the 19th and 20th centuries. The establishment of the Hellenic State, the two World Wars and the creation of the European Union could be revealed during the teaching of history via ways that would pinpoint, without deliberate omissions, the presence of each nation into the creation of contemporary European identity. The case of Greece takes the place that befits it, through well-founded historical references, recognized nowadays by the historical

science. Emphasis should be given to Greece's geographical position which is of geostrategic importance in South-Eastern Mediterranean Sea, without nevertheless to neglect to the present day the rhetorical question that the Neohellenic teachers were posing to themselves since the time of the Neohellenic Enlightenment in regards as to where does the country they reside in belongs to: to the West or to the East? This rhetorical question has been a locus of debate amongst them for many years in relation to the question of Greek identity. As it has been argued, Greek civilization has been shaped by both sides of the Mediterranean, always nevertheless recognizing the European dimension of its cultural identity which was formulated, from the period of Classical Antiquity until the present day, within the molding of a continuously evolving common and innovative basis of its people.

THE INSTITUTION OF PROFESSORS EMERITI IN A WORLD THAT IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING

Gerassimos Metaxas

Department of Orthopaedics University of Athens, Greece
e-mail: gerasimos.metaxas@hotmail.com

On the occasion of the founding congress of the «European Association of Professors Emeriti» it would be useful to address the participants with two key questions, which will contribute to the statutory meaning of the Emeritus title in a worldwide context.

- 1) Does the body of the Emeritus Professors of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens possess an institutional status similar to their European and American counterparts?
- 2) What are the criteria for Emeritus status and whom is the selection committee comprised of?

The title of Professor Emeritus, which is attributed after retirement due to age constraints, should not only be honorary but substantive and institutional. In this presentation proposed requirements and activities to achieve this effect are suggested which could pave the way for an open discussion for the participant body of Professors Emeriti.

SOCIOLOGICAL MARGINALIA ON THE DEONTOLOGY OF THE VOCATION OF AN EMERITUS PROFESSOR IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE HOMOACADEMICUS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

Ljubiša Mitrović

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, Serbia
e-mail: ljubisa.mitrovic@filfak.ni.ac.rs

There is no retirement for a true thinker, scientist and revolutionary. Such persons resist the passage of time as long as they are driven by the creative Eros and Promethean ethos of their vocation. Their intellectual odyssey is all but temporarily stopped

by physical death, and it is the test of time that will show the true value of their work, which outlives their authors. The true measure of achievement of professors emeriti is how much they have contributed to the advancement of the quality of education and of scientific work of the community of the homo academicus, how much they have increased its innovation potential, and how much they have multiplied the critical intellectual power of the nation they belong to and of humankind.

The paper addresses the sociological, pedagogical, scientific and culturological aspects of being an emeritus professor in the contemporary society. Practice shows that developed and democratic modern societies, academic communities and corporations are more open to the engagement of professors emeriti and the use of their rich pedagogical, scientific and research experience than underdeveloped authoritarian communities, whose political and managerial elites do not have a responsible attitude towards the potential of those who belong to the "third generation". The paper attempts to classify societies according to their relation towards scientific and pedagogical innovations, and the intellectual potential of professors emeriti, and to point to their deontological role in the contemporary university and society. The author puts forward the hypothesis that mature and healthy societies are open towards the innovation potential of professors emeriti, that such societies do not discriminate against such citizens on the basis of their age, and that they stimulate the synthesis of experience and youth in the permanent education of the homo academicus.

Getting elected professor emeritus is not just an honour but also an obligation to serve the scientific community, national culture and mankind.

PHOSPHORUS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VESSELS AND WATERS POLLUTION: CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY OF ACTIVE NEPHROLOGY RETIRED PROFESSORS

Vincenzo Savica¹, Guido Bellinghieri²

¹Monroy Institute of Biomedicine and Molecular Immunology of National Research Council, Palermo, Italy,

²School of Health Sciences, Department of Medicine, University of Messina, Italy

e-mail: visavica@tin.it

e-mail: gberlinghieri@hotmail.com

Phosphorus is an important element for more 1 millions of metabolic step in humans and animals. It was discovered in 1969 by H. Brand and was considered a philosophical stone able to turn base metals like lead into gold. From 1675 it was suggested to cure numerous pathologies even if A. Omodei in 1817 reported that many doctors used a phosphorus as medicament often resulted in the death of the patients. Orfila injected phosphorus into the jugular vein of a big dog that later died in very short time. The production of matches was forbidden in 1907 in Germany because several women died after ingestion of solutions or coffee containing hundred phosphorus matched heads for abortions. Update phosphorus is still used as medicament because it is considered as tonic nervous element positively influencing cognitive function. Moreover it is used also as toothpaste, fertilizer, detergent. In the last 25 years nephrologists showed a correlation between hyperphosphatemia and mortality risk in chronic kidney disease patients, and with subclinical atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease in the community. Phosphorus is considered an hazardous element also for environment because it is responsible for water eutrophication in form of perpetual algal bloom into lakes and sea. Phosphorus originated from food proteins but a normal dietary intake provides an amount of phosphate, which is unlike to result in increased blood phosphates and thereby elevated risk for atherogenesis and cardiovascular disease. The problem of abnormal phosphorus ingestion is due to phosphorus foods based additives, orthophosphoric acid of beverages and drugs containing phosphorus. Moreover phosphorus showed negative influence on tumorigenesis and telomers. So phosphate blood in excess must be considered as a nutrient pollution problem in the blood broken hearts liken broken lakes (eutrophication). Scientist must to draw attention of the governments to phosphorus based additives reduction in the foods and in beverages.

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