

Our New President

Associate Professor Spiros Ladas has been elected President of the Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology for the year 2003.

Professor Ladas was born in Lixouri, Cephalonia, where he completed his elementary education. He then entered the Medical School of the University of Athens in 1964 and graduated six years later.

He trained in internal medicine at the 2nd Department of Internal Medicine at Evangelismos hospital, under Professor C. Gardikas, a pioneer clinician and teacher, and in gastroenterology at the Gastroenterology Department of Guy's Hospital and Medical School in London. In 1977, he presented his thesis and was awarded a Ph.D degree from the University of Athens. His postgraduate training in Guy's Hospital (1980-82) was on diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy, funded by grants from the University of Athens and the Wellcome Trust Foundation. Over that period he did some excellent research on post-vagotomy diarrhoea syndrome and small intestinal pathophysiology, published in peer review journals, such as *Gastroenterology* and *Gut*. In 1985, he was also awarded an EU grant and had the opportunity to visit important gastroenterology departments in the UK for educational updating.



He was awarded the specialty of Internal Medicine (1976) and Gastroenterology (1979) in Greece and in E.U. countries (UEMS 2001). In 1988, he was awarded the title of Senior Lecturer at the University of Athens. In his medical career at the University of Athens, he evolved from the post of lecturer to his current position of Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology and he is now in charge of the Gastroenterology Unit in Evangelismos hospital, which he created, equipped and developed.

Spiros Ladas is a member of many Greek scientific medical societies. He has served as President of the Endoscopy Section (1987-88) and Vice-President of the Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology through the previous year. He is a founding member and former Secretary, Vice-President and President (1995-98) of the Hellenic Helicobacter Pylori Study Group. He is also a member of the Governing Board of the Hellenic Foundation of Gastroenterology and Nutrition. He is member of several international medical societies. He has served as a board member (1998-2002) of the Ethics Committee of World Organization of Gastroenterology (OMGE) and a member (2000-2) of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the European Association for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy (EAGE). He was invited and participated in the Maastricht-2, 2000 Consensus Symposium that elaborated the current European guidelines for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection. Presently, he is an elected member of the Governing Board of the European Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (2003-4) and Depute Chairman of the Education Committee of ESGE.

He has presented research work at numerous Greek and international medical meetings, has chaired scientific session in many Greek and 26 International congresses and has lectured in more than 100 Greek and 22 international congresses. His research work has offered our medical community over 250 publications 72 of which are published in prestigious medical journals and are cited in more than 800 publications and 53 medical textbooks, Sleisenger and Fordtran's "Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease" among others. He is a regular reviewer of papers submitted to a well-known journals of our specialty and a member (2002-3) of the Editorial Board of "Endoscopy" and "Digestive Diseases". He is also the author of the books "Differential Diagnosis of Digestive Symptoms and Syndromes" (Greek, 1998), "Medical Ethics: Focus on Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy" (2002) and "Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy of the Gastrointestinal Tract" (Greek, 2003).

He was the President of the 20th Hellenic Congress of Gastroenterology (2000) and the Congress of the Hellenic Helicobacter Pylori Study Group (1999). In 2001 he was invited by ESGE, EAGE, ESGENA, OMED and OMDE and organized the 1st European Congress on “Ethics in Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy”. He has also been invited by ESGE and UEGF to organize and chair the next European congress on medical ethics, planned for 2005. Since 2001, he has motivated and organized the annual postgraduate seminar “Gastroenterology for the non-specialist”, under the auspices of EAGE. His wide field and quality of work has made him one of the most acknowledged physicians abroad.

Over the past years Professor Ladas has organized the lessons of “Gastroenterology” and “Digestive Endoscopy” for the medical students of the Medical School of the University of Athens, where his enthusiasm in the organization and the lecturing of these lessons has made them very popular selections for medical students. Concomitantly, his Unit continuously trains new gastroenterologists. His crop has been some of the most integral physicians practicing today and his effect is generously recognized. As regards his personal qualities, he has an enormous capacity for hard work and a strong independent will, that indicates a forceful drive, which he harnesses creatively. He carries on tirelessly with his research and his clinical practice where, in some fields, his work has been pioneering for Greece, making him a referral physician for many doctors.

I have been fortunate to work for and with Professor Ladas for over a decade. Our collaboration has affected my career significantly and developed my medical practice. I very much believe that his Presidency will be a successful one for our scientific Society but even more, a great opportunity for new gastroenterologists to get to know and benefit from this exceptional physician and medical teacher.

PS Tassios