Dear Friends,

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer! I wish to take a look forward to the highlight of the fall season, our annual Scholarship Gala, and to shine a light on its noble purpose. Our primary mission is to build for the future of our society, profession and community by maintaining the focus on current and potential medical students and scientists through the promotion of our scholarship fund. We take pride in our members both for being leaders in our demanding field and for the contributions they make to the Greek American community, but I want to challenge them this year to surpass everything our forebears have done for the benefit of our generation and those which followed. This year’s gala will continue our wonderful tradition of ringing in the Christmas season for the whole Greek American community in a joyful and philanthropic spirit. Help us build the future by inviting colleagues, family and friends in other professions to one of the Community’s most beloved and enjoyable events.

This year’s Distinguished Philhellene Award recipient will be Katherine E. Fleming, Provost of NYU, Historian. The Distinguished Physician Award recipient will be George D. Kofinas, M.D., Director of the Fertility Institute at New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and the Distinguished Colleague Award recipient will be Florentia Christodoulidou, M.D., Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens. Soon, you will be receiving mailings for journal ad solicitations. Please remember that despite what may be considered a high cost for the Annual Gala, the cost of such a wonderful function is covered by ticket prices. The Society stays solvent through journal ad solicitations. Our future doctors need your financial support and this timeless memento of the event which is cherished by the scholarship recipients is your way to contribute. Thank you for your past support and thank you in advance for your support again this year.

As an organization with a 100 year history, we have a legacy of being role models and for giving back. I want to underscore that we can aid the next generation of medical professionals not only by providing financial support but also by recognizing the importance of our role model status. Now more than ever we need to emphasize the importance of healing, teaching, and perhaps most of all inspiring! Some HMS members were honored by other leading Hellenic institutions for these virtues. Dr. Anna Kaltsas was the recipient of the American Community Schools of Athens’ 2017 Emerging Young Leader Award and Dr, Marinos Petratos has been chosen to be the Manhattan Chapter of The Order of AHEPA, Delphi 25’s honoree at their annual gala event which will take place at the Loeb Central Park Boathouse this October 16, 2017. Please join us to honor Dr. Petratos as AHEPA celebrates his over 50 years of public service and dedication to the Greek-American community.

As we keep ourselves informed about the rapidly changing landscape in medicine and keep abreast of forces that will have an impact on our profession: advancements in technology, artificial intelligence, data collection/dissemination, legislation, and the future of medical education, we are in a position to share that knowledge with today’s students.

I urge you to consider writing articles and offering to be interviewed for TV and radio broadcasts and newspapers to offer lectures and other presentations. HMS can help make arrangements with the media and community organizations.

As we return from our vacations refreshed from our professional exertions, I want to take this opportunity to thank those who took precious time from their work and personal schedules to help organize and participate in our events to date. Particular recognition should go to all of the members of the board who tirelessly work and meet to keep our finances in order, keep the focus of the society in line with our mission, and who serve as ambassadors for the society to the Consulate of Greece, the United Nations, and to visitors from Greece who look to our society for leaders within the community. Health workers have many justifiable complaints about the state of affairs within our profession but one thing that remains unwavering is the reverence and respect that we are given by so many. We must remain proud of what we do not only as a vocation but for the community.

I will close my message with best wishes for all the students at all education levels who aspire to medical careers, and I reiterate our pledge that HMS will continue to work to support them as they pursue their dreams and to honor them for their achievements. I look forward to seeing you at the Central Park Boathouse with Dr. Petratos and of course at the J.W. Marriot Essex house with our HMS Distinguished Honorees!

George P. Liakeas, MD
The Hellenic Medical Society of New York
January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2018

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THE HELLENIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

2017

YOUNG INITIATIVE KICK OFF EVENT

MAY 18, 2017 • 6:30–9:30PM

HOSTED BY

LORRAINE CHRISOMALIS-VALASIADIS, M.D.
1755 York Avenue, 2nd Floor Lounge, New York, NY
(BETWEEN 91ST AND 92ND STREETS)

Join us in welcoming the next generation of health professionals and students to our community.

Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.

RSVP TODAY

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THE HELLENIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

60 Plaza St. East, Brooklyn, NY 11238  hellenicmed@gmail.com  718-398-2440
Young Professionals Event
May 18, 2017 | NYC
Dr. George N. Papanicolaou 2017 Award Symposium
May 23, 2017 | NYC

The Hellenic Medical Society of New York

Honoring
Nikolaos Papantoniou, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Chairman of the 3rd Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Medical School
Director of post graduate course: ‘High Risk Pregnancy’ MSc

Introduction
Spyros G. E. Mezitis, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman
President, Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America

Greetings
George Liakeas, M.D. – President, Hellenic Medical Society of New York
Frank Chervenak, M.D. – Chairman. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Weill Cornell Medical College
Frederick Maxfield, M.D. – Chairman of Biochemistry, Interim Chair of the Department Cell & Development
Ms. Soula Podara – President, Panevoikos Society of America
Mr. Peter Galatoulas – President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York

Awards
Student Essay Awards
Professor Demosthenes Triantafillou - President of the Greek Teachers Association – Prometheus

Scientific Program
‘Screening for chromosomal abnormalities and preeclampsia in the 1st trimester’
Nikolaos Papantoniou, M.D., Ph.D.

Keynote Speaker
Introduced by Dr. Frank Chervenak

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Reception: 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Archbold Commons
Academic Program: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Weill Educational Center, 2nd Floor
1300 York Avenue, NYC

Sponsors
The Hellenic Medical Society of New York, Weill Cornell Medical College, Panevoikos Society of America,
Federation of Hellenic Medical Societies of North America, Prometheus-Greek Teachers Association

Please RSVP by May 19, 2017 at: 718-398-2440 or E-mail: hellenicmed@gmail.com

1 CME Accreditation
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and Policies of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY), through the joint providership of St. Francis Hospital-The Heart Center and the Hellenic Medical Society of New York. St. Francis Hospital-The Heart Center is accredited by the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. St. Francis Hospital-The Heart Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in this activity.
Dr. George N. Papanicolaou 2017 Award Symposium
May 23, 2017 | NYC

N. Papantoniou, MD. PhD

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Chairman of the 3rd Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – Medical School
Director of postgraduate course: “High Risk Pregnancy” MS

Dr. N. Papantoniou has graduated from Medical School of the Athens University in 1976. He has specialized in Obstetrics and Gynecology in “Alexandra” State & University Maternity Hospital and has been in the list of specialists since 1985. In 1986 he has completed his PhD Thesis with distinction in Athens University. Within 1985-1986, he conducted further sub-specialization in Maternal-Fetal Medicine working as a Clinical Assistant in Hammersmith Hospital (U.K.) and he received the title of Honorary Lecturer of the University of London. From 1987 until 2013 he has been working as specialist in the 1st Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the University of Athens-Greece, at “Alexandra” State and University Maternity Hospital, where he has gradually served as Senior Registrar, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor. Since 2013 he was appointed Full Professor at Athens University School of Medicine and Chairman of the 3rd Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. He is also Director of postgraduate course: “High Risk Pregnancy” MSc. Since 2016 he is elected Director of Domain for Health of Mother and Child, coordinating 8 university clinics. He is a member of 10 International Medical Societies (International Academy of Perinatal Medicine, International Fetoscopy Working Group, Fetus as Patient, ISUOG, MEDUOG, SEEspm et al) and 9 Greek Scientific Societies (Hellenic Societies of : Obstetrics & Gynecology, Perinatal Medicine, Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Prenatal Diagnosis and Fetal Therapy et al.), in many of them as a founder member and member in the board of directors, such as General Secretary and President. He has served as President in the Hellenic Perinatal Society and the Hellenic Society of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology. He is currently v. President in the Hellenic Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology and the Hellenic Society of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology and General Secretary of the Hellenic Society for Prenatal Diagnosis and Fetal Therapy.

His clinical practice focuses on Maternal Fetal Medicine, the organization and quality of Perinatal care, the application of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, invasive Prenatal Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures and Screening tests for Prenatal Diagnosis of congenital malformations and pregnancy related complications.

The main goals of his scientific activity include:
• The investigation of fetal physiology through the examination of blood parameters
• The investigation of the embryonic hormonal profile
• The ultrasonographic investigation of fetal anomalies
• The implementation and enhancement of antenatal fetal testing, including CVS, fetal blood sampling and fetal urine sampling
• The improvement of fetal operations including umbilical cord transfusion, fetal death induction in multiple gestations and repeated amniocentesis
• The investigation of antenatal testing parameters in high risk pregnancy, including Doppler ultrasonography and cardiotocography
• The advancing knowledge in the field of non-invasive antenatal testing and the investigation of the role of microRNAs in preeclampsia and gestational diabetes.

His research work was mainly funded by EU, the Greek state and Athens University. He was responsible for the European Union funded research program ARISTEIA (excellence) and has received several international and Greek awards for the advance of science. He is the co-founder of 1 Greek and 1 European patent. During his academic career he has supervised 58 PhD theses. Prof. N. Papantoniou is the author and co-author of 128 publications in International and of 59 in Hellenic peer reviewed journals (1500 citations, h-index: 23). He is author / co-author of 11 chapters in International and 16 chapters in Greek medical books. He has been invited as lecturer in more than 150 conferences in Greece and abroad and participated with more than 700 announcements.
Dr. George N. Papanicolaou 2017 Award Symposium
May 23, 2017 | NYC

Recipients, Teachers, and Sponsors of the 2017 Annual Dr. George N. Papanicolaou Student Essay Award.
Sponsored by the Greek Teachers Association-Prometheus In cooperation with the Hellenic Medical Society of New York

Dr. Nikolaos Papantoniou receiving the 2017 Dr. George N. Papanicolaou Award
Left: Consul General of Greece, Mr. Emmanouil Koumbarakis, Dr. Frank Chervenak, Dr. George Liakeas, Mrs. Papantoniou, Dr. Nikolaos Papantoniou, Honoree, Dr. Spyros Mezitis and Dr. Christos Moschos

PLAY VIDEO
On June 20, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") issued a proposed rule that would make changes in the second year of the Quality Payment Program as required by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 ("MACRA"). The goal of the proposed rule is to simplify the Quality Payment Program, especially for small, independent, and rural practices, while ensuring fiscal sustainability and high-quality care within Medicare. Among the proposed changes are expansion of the low-volume threshold for exempted eligible clinicians and the addition of the option for eligible clinicians and small groups to join virtual groups.

The MACRA established the Quality Payment Program, which aims to improve patient care, promote the adoption of Alternative Payment Models, and advance existing efforts of Delivery System Reform. On October 14, 2016, the CMS issued its final rule with comment period implementing the MACRA, which went into effect on January 1, 2017. The final rule with comment period set forth two options for eligible clinicians to participate in the Quality Payment Program developed by the rule: (i) the Merit-based Incentive Payment System ("MIPS"); and (ii) Advanced Alternative Payment Models ("Advanced APMs").

Based on voluminous stakeholder input, the CMS proposed many changes to the Quality Payment Program for 2018 to reduce the burden on eligible clinicians and offer flexibilities to help them to successfully participate in the program. Included among these changes are changes to the low-volume threshold for eligible clinicians and the addition of virtual groups.

In the CMS’ 2017 final rule with comment period, the low-volume threshold excluded eligible clinicians or groups from MACRA requirements if they received less than or equal to $30,000 in Medicare Part B allowed charges, or had less than or equal to 100 Medicare patients. Under the proposed rule, the CMS proposes to expand the low-volume threshold to eligible clinicians or groups with less than or equal to $90,000 in Part B allowed charges or less than or equal to 200 Part B beneficiaries. The CMS estimates that this will exclude approximately 134,000 additional eligible clinicians from the MACRA requirements.

The proposed rule also offers eligible clinicians the option to participate in virtual groups. Under this option, solo practitioners and groups of ten (10) or fewer eligible clinicians can come together “virtually” with at least one other such solo practitioner or group to participate in MIPS for a performance period of a year. In order for a solo practitioner to be eligible to join a virtual group, he/she would need to meet the definition of a MIPS eligible clinician and not be excluded from MIPS based on one of the four exclusions (i.e. being a new Medicare-enrolled eligible clinician; a Qualifying APM Participant; a Partial Qualifying APM Participant who chooses not to report on measures and activities under MIPS; and those who do not exceed the low-volume threshold). Groups of ten (10) or fewer eligible clinicians groups can join a virtual group if they exceed the low-volume threshold at the group level. Such groups may include eligible clinicians who do not meet the definition of a MIPS eligible clinician, or may be excluded from MIPS based on one of the four exclusions. Under the proposed rule, solo practitioners and groups with ten (10) or fewer eligible clinicians would be permitted to join or form a virtual group with other solo practitioners or groups with ten (10) or fewer eligible clinicians regardless of specialty or location, and, at this time, the CMS is not proposing to limit the size of virtual groups.

The CMS has proposed requirements for virtual groups. Solo practitioners and groups with ten (10) or fewer eligible clinicians that choose this participation option would need to make an election to join a virtual group prior to the 2018 performance period (i.e. by December 1, 2017), and may not change their election during the performance period. In addition, individual MIPS eligible clinicians or groups may only elect to be in one virtual group for a performance period, and, for groups, the election applies to all MIPS eligible clinicians in the group. The CMS also proposed that each virtual group member would be required to execute written agreements with each other member to ensure that requirements and expectations of participation in MIPS are clearly articulated, understood, and agreed upon. As proposed, such agreements would have to meet certain proposed criteria.

Other proposed changes to the proposed rule include: (i) continuing to allow the use of 2014 Edition Certified Electronic Health Record Technology ("CEHRT"); (ii) adding bonus points in the scoring methodology for caring for complex patients, and using the 2015 Edition of CEHRT exclusively; and (iii) adding a new hardship exception for clinicians in small practices under the advancing care information performance category. The proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2017, and comments will be accepted through August 21, 2017.

Catherine Patsos is a health care attorney with extensive experience in representing physicians and other health care providers. She concentrates her practice in health care reimbursement, regulatory and compliance matters, physician employment, HIPAA, and fraud and abuse issues. For more information, visit www.healthcarelawllc.com.
Cognitive remediation (CR) is a type of rehabilitation treatment based on the theory of neuroplasticity. That is that the brain has the ability to reorganize and compensate following injury or that the brain changes or adapts throughout life. The focus of CR programs is to reduce cognitive dysfunction and improve functioning in real world settings. CR usually includes two treatment techniques. The first technique is to rehabilitate or restore the area of cognitive deficit. This includes brain training exercises that are repeated and as such the patient rehearses the underlying cognitive skill. Level of difficulty is increased along the way to the point of improved or restored function. The second technique is to enhance and encourage the use of the preserved cognitive functions. This includes teaching patients compensatory strategies to be successful in their task at hand by using their strengths or their existing preserved skills. The CR clinician first assesses the patient’s cognitive strengths and weaknesses, which sets a new baseline level of their functioning. The CR clinician and patient work closely together to set goals and develop an individualized treatment plan. Cognitive remediation encompasses the patient’s emotional, cognitive and behavioral functioning in that treatment plan. CR is not a program in place of medical treatment or psychotherapy but all three are approaches that complement each other.

Cognitive deficits are common in patients with a history of a brain condition or following the treatment for a brain condition. Cognitive deficits include problems with attention and executive functioning (e.g., planning, organizing, problem solving, and multi-tasking), new learning and memory, language and visuospatial processing. Patients with a history of a brain condition or its treatment (e.g., stroke, seizures, traumatic brain injury, brain tumor/cancer, or chemotherapy) will commonly report problems with remembering and managing their daily tasks, remaining focused or sustaining their attention. Patients also commonly report problems coming up with names of people or places and words in conversational speech. Some patients also describe problems with their efficiency in task completion or how quickly they can process new information (e.g., they are slower, take longer to complete their tasks or understand a situation or a complex problem). CR has been shown to be an effective facet in the collaborative care for patients recovering from brain-related disorders.

Cognitive dysfunction also affects the majority of psychiatric patients. Cognitive remediation is also being used as part of the treatment of individuals with psychiatric illness. The cognitive dysfunction in patients with mental illness is associated with poorer treatment engagement and worse real world outcomes. Conventional treatments for psychiatric patients (medication and psychotherapy) often fail to address the cognitive dysfunction that is associated with the psychiatric disorder. This underlies the incomplete recovery in social, educational and vocational functioning in psychiatric patients. Cognitive remediation in psychiatric patients has been shown to improve cognition, self-efficacy, adherence to treatment and functional outcomes. These improvements translate into improved daily function and engagement in home and community. Ultimately, improved functioning in instrumental tasks of daily living at home and in the community (school/work) lead to reduced rates of hospitalization for these vulnerable patients.

Overall, cognitive remediation is brain training to rehabilitate deficient functions and enhance preserved functions with compensational mechanisms. This rehabilitation treatment has been found impactful in improving the patient’s cognition and overall quality of life.

Diamanto Tsakanikas, Ph.D.
Clinical Neuropsychologist
Neuropsychology Services
Behavioral Health Center

451 Clarkson Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11203
Tel: (718) 245-1900 / Fax: (718) 245-3068
The Hellenic Medical Society of New York

Celebrating 81st Annual Scholarship Gala

December 2, 2017

JW Marriott Essex House
160 Central Park South
New York, NY
Dear HMS-NY Member,

Gala Chairs Dr. Lorraine Chrisomalis-Valasiadis, Dr. Helen Gouzoulis-Koutsos and Nicole Contos Liakeas would like to welcome you to the 81st Annual Scholarship Gala of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York. Which will be held at the JW Marriott Essex House on Saturday, December 2nd. The Scientific Symposium and Scholarship Awards will be hosted by Dr. George Liakeas, Dr. Sotirios Stergiopoulos, and Dr. Lorraine Chrisomalis-Valasiadis at Lenox Hill Hospital, Einhorn Auditorium on Friday, December 1st.

This year’s Distinguished Physician Award recipient will be George D. Kofinas, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Director of the Fertility Institute at New York Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. The Distinguished Colleague Award recipient will be Florentia Christodoulidou, M.D., Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens, and the Distinguished Philhellene Award recipient will be Katherine E. Fleming, Ph.D, Provost of New York University.

The Hellenic Medical Society of New York will publish a journal to commemorate the evening, which will be distributed to the guests. Placing an ad in the journal is a wonderful opportunity to show support, extend your best wishes to our honorees, and advertise to our members and the Greek community. The proceeds from the journal will help fund the many scholarships offered to medical students of Hellenic heritage.

Below is the journal contract, which we ask you to complete and return along with your advertisement; you can also email your advertisement to: Hellenicmed@gmail.com

The Hellenic Medical Society of New York proudly offers a number of scholarships every year through the proceeds of the journal, as well as through the generosity of our supporters. Should you wish to sponsor a scholarship, please feel free to contact me at 718-398-2440. Additional information can be found on our website at: www.hmsny.org.

HMS-NY organizes and unites health care professionals of Hellenic heritage to foster, promote, and support medical research, educational programs, and cultural events to enrich the quality of life of the individual and the community he/she serves. The HMS-NY is a 501©3 non-profit organization. As always, this year’s Annual Scholarship Gala is the society’s main fundraising event. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at our Annual Scholarship Gala Event.

Sincerely,

Evangelia Tsavaris
HMS-NY Journal Chair
THE HELLENIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK™
81st ANNUAL GALA PROGRAM JOURNAL
Honoring

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George D. Kofinas, M.D., FACOG
Director of the Fertility Institute at New York Presbyterian
Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE
Florentia Christodoulidou, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Mt. Sinai Hospital of Queens

DISTINGUISHED PHILHELLENHE
Katherine E. Fleming, Ph.D.
Provost, New York University

Saturday, December 2, 2017, JW Marriott Essex House New York
Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. (Tax ID 23-7292278)
Program Journal Contract ————DEADLINE November 14, 2017
I, the undersigned, agree to pay the Hellenic Medical Society of New York $____________ for _________ page
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Farewell to Consul General of Greece Emmanuel Koumbarakis

Over the last few years we build a wonderful relationship.

Thank you for your help!

Good luck in your new endeavours

Hon. E. Koumbarakis
Nicole Contos Liakeas
Dr. G. Liakeas
Save The Date

AHEPA DELPHI CHAPTER 25
MANHATTAN, NY

Gala
IN HONOR OF
DR. MARINOS PETRATOS
PAST PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 16TH, 2017
6:30 PM

CENTRAL PARK BOAT HOUSE
MANHATTAN, NY

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MANHATTAN
SEPTEMBER 28, 30, OCT. 1—THE DIRECTORS GUILD
110 West 57 Street. (Between Sixth and Seventh Avenues)

OCTOBER 2, 3, 4, 5—WELLS FARGO CENTER
150 East 42 Street (Between Lexington and Third Avenues)

OCTOBER 13, 14, 15—NYIT AUDITORIUM ON BROADWAY
1871 Broadway (Between West 61 and West 62 Streets)

ASTORIA
OCTOBER 6, 7, 8—MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE
35th Avenue at 37th Street

MANHASSET
OCTOBER 9, 10, 11—BOW TIE MANHASSET CINEMA
430 Plandome Road
Human-caused and natural disasters are increasing in the US and parishes and individuals need to be prepared for them and gain the skills to know how to appropriately respond to them. IOCC invites parish and community leaders to learn about:

- The Disaster Cycle
- “Continuity of Operations” for parishes and organizations
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- Creation of a “Parish/Community Preparedness Plan”
- How to work with stakeholders and first responders in the community-at-large
- Volunteer Recruitment for future IOCC engagement in Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), local response teams with NYC Emergency Management, FEMA, American Red Cross, etc.
- Recruitment of IOCC Volunteers for future activation in IOCC’s humanitarian response during emergencies and disasters

ALL ARE WELCOME!
RSVP at iocc.org/NYCHomefront

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St. George's University Medical School

St. George University of London allows us to share news, views and ideas; something that will enhance the existing internal communication channels of our Medical School.

- Launching of MedNews
- St George’s rises into the Top 200 best universities in the world
- Medical School academic secures European funding under the Human Brain Project
- The Newly elected Medical Student Society (MSS)
- Medical Training opportunities in Wales
- Delphic Prize for outstanding contribution to Psychiatry

This is a milestone year in the life of the Medical School.
- We have graduated the first class last May.
- This year we have 110 students in the 4 year Program and 45 in the 6 year Program.
- Our students come from about 25 countries.
- St George University of London is included in the 200 best Universities in the World.
- We are using as clinical practice sites at the Nicosia General Hospital, Limassol General Hospital, Scebe Medical Center in Israel, Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago and Ponce Medical Center in P Rico.

The web site for the Medical School is www.nicosia.sgul.ac.cy
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The Hellenic Medical Society of New York cordially invites all current & prospective members to reach the community and promote themselves!

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