

June 25, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Greece's history has been rich and deep over the centuries of human development. Greek philosophy and scientific advancement is legendary and is a pillar of human achievement from pre-biblical times through the 21st century. As the birthplace of democracy, the Greeks have always been modern and progressive in thought. There is no doubt the Greek culture fosters great vision and forethought.

In recent years, Vision itself has benefited from such scientific tradition and innovation. Dr. Ioannis Pallikaris, his team of scientific researchers and clinicians at the University of Crete and more specifically at the VEIC institute have significantly redefined human vision and its capabilities. They have lead the way with cutting edge research and ideas for improving human vision well beyond limits considered unreachable just a few years ago. As the father of LASIK, Dr. Pallikaris and his team of researchers from the University of Crete started the revolution of correcting vision using lasers and not with contact lenses or glasses. Today, millions of people around the world have had LASIK dramatically improving their vision and way of life. More importantly, LASIK and refractive surgery is now becoming the first field of medicine where in large part human performance can be improved beyond nature's limits.

A unique aspect of the program that Dr. Pallikaris has developed at the University of Crete is his generosity to create and develop ideas through his young co-workers and research team members. The excitement he instills and the freedom of thought generated provides for a tremendous energy to pursue research and find creative ways to solve classic problems. This I believe will be his greatest legacy. Dr. Pallikaris also created strong industry relations to financially support research at the University of Crete and helped accelerate market developments to improve patient care. Those that were fortunate to learn from him will continue this process.

I have been fortunate to witness the creative thought and arduous dedication to see ideas become reality in the laboratory and clinical research of Dr. Pallikaris and his team for over 20 years. He has raised many young and talented minds in the University of Crete to reach beyond traditional boundaries and really create a research institution at VEIC which is at the pinnacle of Visual Optics and Vision Research worldwide. Greece must be proud.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Aegean Cornea and Retina Meetings which has been a celebration of scientific discovery in eye care. This year, as with each year, many of the top ophthalmologists and vision scientists from around the world are coming to Greece to partake in the scientific learning of the Aegean Meetings due to the rich history of visual science in Crete. I will be one of these fortunate visitors to Greece coming with my family to partake in the congress. I congratulate VEIC for its valuable contributions to medicine and I look forward to the future challenging discoveries ahead as much as I treasure those of the past.

Best regards,



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