



Department of Ophthalmology
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
One Gustave Levy Place
New York, NY 10029

March 5, 2010

Prof. I. Pallikaris
Rector of the University of Crete
pallikar@med.uoc.gr

Re: Professor I. Pallikaris, Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete

Dear Professor Pallikaris,

It is a difficult period we now face with a world-wide economic crisis. Greece, in particular, has been in the news lately as struggling with its economic crises. But in these times of strife, it is essential that governments find ways to continue their support of those people and programs that are essential to the continued future success of the nation.

Among the most creative and outstanding University centers in world Ophthalmology is in fact in Crete—the Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete, founded over two decades ago by Professor and University of Crete Rector, Ioannis Pallikaris. Established within the University of Crete in Heraklion, the Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete has made major contributions to the teaching and training of numerous scholars, and importantly has excelled in the development of specific surgical procedures that have become the standard of medical care throughout the world. While the Institute has gathered many very talented trainees and faculty, it has been Professor Pallikaris who continues to direct the many productive individuals within the Institute.

Professor Pallikaris is an enormously talented academician/clinician/scientist. His visions for the future of the Institute and the University of Crete are legendary. Some may think the Professor is a dreamer—until they realize that he makes his dreams come true! He is truly a forward thinker with such tremendous energy that his accomplishments have been beyond laudable. As an academic leader, he has worked hard to modernize aspects of the University of Crete and to not succumb to adverse events. As a teacher, his students are now spreading across the globe, sharing what they have learned with others and bringing back with them the knowledge of different strategies for teaching and training. As a researcher, the Professor has deservedly had more international acclaim than nearly any other scientist in the field. And finally, as a person, he is well loved and respected by his family, his students, his staff, and his colleagues. When many of us from different lands think of Greece, our thoughts turn to the Professor. Any country would be proud and thankful for such a representative.

In closing, let me say that it is my sincere hope that Professor Pallikaris and the Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete will continue to have the support needed to continue their uniquely important work. Investment in the Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete will continue to bring recognition of Greece as a country of vision and wisdom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Klyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Stephen D Klyce, PhD
Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
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