

March 1, 2010

Via Email: [pallikar@med.uoc.gr](mailto:pallikar@med.uoc.gr)

Prof. I. Pallikaris  
Rector of the University of Crete

Dear Prof. Pallikaris:

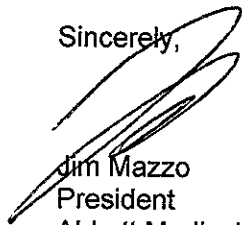
I am writing to you as a leader in the global ophthalmology industry to recognize the significant contributions Dr. Ioannis Pallikaris has made and is making within our medical specialty.

Dr. Pallikaris is recognized as a world renowned expert in the area of cataract and refractive surgery including his ground breaking work in Laser Assisted in Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK). He has been recognized by the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ESCRS) with the Binkhorst Medal as well by the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) with the lifetime achievement award. He is obviously an invaluable contributor to the ophthalmic specialty at a global level, within Europe, and within Greece.

Dr. Pallikaris has dedicated his medical career to advancing the ophthalmic specialty through technological advancements, groundbreaking ophthalmic research, and educational programs to advance the skills and knowledge of ophthalmologists from Greece and around the world. A significant portion of these achievements have been accomplished over the last 20 years through Dr. Pallikaris's efforts with the Vardinoyannion Eye Institute of Crete (VEIC) and the Aegean ophthalmology medical meeting which he has been a driving force over the congresses 21 year history.

I realize in these financially challenging times, there are tough financial decisions that must be weighed upon. There is one critical factor, however, that I find important in bringing these difficult decisions into focus. What institutions and programs have made a significant difference in improving the standard of care in ophthalmology for patients, and which programs have helped improve the expertise of the ophthalmologist to deliver better care? In both counts I can assure you Dr. Pallikaris is a leader.

Sincerely,



Jim Mazzo  
President  
Abbott Medical Optics