

<http://www.thenationalherald.com/issue.asp?issue=15464>

NEW YORK - The Stavros Niarchos Foundation made two substantial donations recently, one to the newly renovated Intensive Care Unit of the Panagiotis & Aglaia Kyriakou Children's General Hospital and another to the new National Gallery for Sculpture, both located in Athens.



ETHNIKOS KHRYKAS/GIANNHS SOFIANOS

(L-R) Greek Health Minister Demetris Avramopoulos, left, engaged in discussion with Andreas C. Dracopoulos, board member of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and his wife Katerina during the inauguration of the new Intensive Care Unit at "Paidon" Hospital in Athens. The Foundation issued a substantial grant to help upgrade the ICU.

Hellenic Republic President Karolos Papoulias attended the inauguration of the new ICU at the hospital commonly known as "Paidon" on June 29, and presented Andreas Dracopoulos, a member of the Foundation's board of trustees, with an honorary plaque.

Mr. Papoulias also honored Yiannis Papadatos, the ICU's general director. The new ICU, with its eight-bed capacity, is fully equipped and meets the highest technological and medical standards to provide care for children who suffer from serious illnesses, or who are victims of severe accidents. The "BREATH-Friends of Children's ICU" organization, headed by Ioannis Nikolaidis, is the other contributor to this effort.

Greek Health Minister Demetris Avramopoulos called the project "a leap of quality that marks the future of Greek healthcare."

In his remarks, Mr. Dracopoulos expressed appreciation towards the individuals who helped make this project possible.

Among others, Academy of Athens President and former Health Minister Kostis Stefanis and United States Ambassador to Greece Charles Ries, as well as several other guests from the medical and political communities, attended the event.

The National Gallery for Sculpture is the other recent undertaking of the Niarchos Foundation, which generally supports healthcare, education, art, culture and social programs for underprivileged groups all over the world, emphasizing the promotion and preservation of Greek heritage.

The Gallery, which will occupy two 19th Century landmark buildings which have been fully renovated to contemporary museum guidelines, will exhibit contemporary and avant-garde sculpture in what used to be cavalry stables in Goudi of Athens.

The donation has also helped the Gallery to complete the designing and presentation of its permanent exhibitions, as well as the restoration, registration and the cataloguing of all its articles. One building will house the 19th and 20th Century permanent collection of Greek sculpture, while the other will showcase loaned and temporary exhibitions. The park in front of the two buildings will feature outdoor public art, thus triggering ongoing public interest.

The Niarchos Foundation was created in 1996 upon the death of its founder, the late shipping magnate Stavros Niarchos, and since then has allocated more than \$250 million in grants to non-profit and philanthropic institutions and organizations in Greece and throughout the world.