



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

Distinguished guests,

Thank you for being here this evening, celebrating with us the wonder of science! Thank you Dr. Lifton for your kind introduction, and thank you Rick for your warm remarks and most importantly for our friendship going back 35 years and for introducing me to this amazing institution, Rockefeller University! It has been a wonderful journey on so many fronts. Those of you who know me know my deep affection for Cavafy's poem called *Ithaca*. That is what it is all about: the journey itself. Thank you to the Board of Rockefeller University for bestowing this honor. Sorry, but there are quite a few more thank yous that I really have to share with you. Thank you to my late great-uncle Stavros Niarchos who fully endowed our Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), and gave us this amazing opportunity to try and do good, and without whom I certainly would not be standing here this evening, and most importantly without whom we wouldn't have been able to embark on our—SNF'S—28-year journey, and ongoing, where we have been actively engaged in our global philanthropic activities, partnering with our close to 3,000 grantees, in more than 130 countries around the globe, committing \$3.7 billion and hopefully contributing to making this crazy, but at the same time beautiful, world of ours a bit of a better place for all.

Thank you to my past and to my current SNF colleagues without whom I again would not be here this evening.

David Rockefeller and Stavros Niarchos were great friends and business partners, and both firmly believed in 'doing well and doing good,' and they both proved to be very successful in both, both while alive and through their legacies continuing after their passing away.

Our foundation's relationship and collaboration with The Rockefeller University has evolved over a quarter of a century and our partnership has involved, among other projects, our support towards the Women & Science initiative in 2001 and 2006, the SNF Core Initiative (a joint grant to Rockefeller and to Memorial Sloan Kettering bolstering the shared resources and collaborative work of scientists at both institutions), the SNF Clinical Scholar Endowment in 2010, and the most recent ones: in 2014 partnering with David Rockefeller to create the SNF-DR River Campus (if Rockefeller can build state-of-the-art lab space over the FDR Drive I guess there are indeed no limits), in 2020 supporting the COVID-19 Research Fund (where under President Rick Lifton, Rockefeller's labs pivoted to meet the human health challenges

and its scientists led the world with the highest number of papers cited), and just this past year launching the SNF Institute for Global Infectious Disease Research at Rockefeller with a mission “to better understand the agents that cause infectious disease and to lower barriers to treatment and prevention globally,” by engaging in research, global partnerships, public engagement, and bioethics.

All of the above projects have a common theme, a theme that has connected over the last century-plus the missions of Stavros Niarchos and David Rockefeller, and that of SNF and Rockefeller, all striving to make this world of ours a better place for all. *Scientia pro bono humani generis*, science for the benefit of humanity, is Rockefeller’s motto; empowering humanity is part of ours at SNF. We could not have found a better partner than in Rockefeller University. In its more than 120 years history, Rockefeller, has had 26 Nobel Prize winners (if Rockefeller were a country, on its own it would rank 9th in the world in the overall table of winners), with 70 laboratories, a great in-house hospital, interdisciplinary collaboration, a community of more than 2,000 faculty, students, postdoc fellows, technicians, clinicians, and administrative personnel, who all work day-in, day-out to carry out Rockefeller’s motto for the benefit of humanity at large. And we couldn’t be more honored to have been collaborating together on so many fronts.

It is so important what Rockefeller is doing in seeking to bring science closer to bedside and closer to society at large. We live in complicated and difficult times indeed, and at times it feels like we are self-commoditizing our own humanity. And all of us at SNF are so appreciative of the possibilities we have through philanthropy to engage in transformational collaborative projects, whether focusing on providing the best possible care for the patient who is sick and needs to be healed, or providing support where mutual understanding needs to be reestablished when circumstances beyond the control of most of us leads to a breakdown in civic life and social cohesion. Yes, each one of us, in whatever role we each have in this world of ours, has to find ways to work together, to the best of each one’s ability, to alleviate pain all around.

What follows right after is a small example of the amazing talent here at Rockefeller, a panel discussion with Dr. Corri Bargmann, Dr. Bary Coller, Dr. Michel Nussenzweig, Dr. Charles Rice, and of course Dr. Richard Lifton, President of Rockefeller. Let us all join Rockefeller’s “Dedication to Discovery” journey and thank you again for the honor and for your presence here this evening.