

**---I am very happy to be here this evening and honored to have been asked to say a few words for Dr. Sculco; I won't be long but I had a few personal thoughts and also nowadays googling can always add to the package! I found his interview for the Columbia Medicine magazine in the Spring/Summer of 2014 very informative and have used some of his quotes from that interview in my remarks below.**

**---I met Tom as a patient. I knew of his medical authority but I was even more impressed when I met him with his knowledge, kindness, bed-side manners, common sense, all attributes of a great human being and a great leader.**

**---His professional achievements I am sure are well known to all. After finishing medical school at Columbia he has spent his entire professional career at HSS, performed at the top level more than 10,000 total hip replacements and countless replaced knees, and for more than a decade was at the head as surgeon-in-chief. During his active leadership, HSS grew in every way possible, more operations, more faculty, more education and research, etc.**

**---Tom Sculco had early aspirations to become an archeologist and if he had not been admitted to Columbia medical he was scheduled to go on an archaeology dig at the Agora in Athens, so we could have actually met years ago in Athens instead of NY! Or his love for classical music could have guided him towards an amazing career in that field and may have moved to Austria.....after all, his father was a jazz trumpeter who studied at Julliard and played with Benny Goodman.....**

**---I mentioned above about Tom's kindness, humanity and great common sense; Dr. Sculco has said that he finds a classical and humanities background applicable to medicine as it, "allows you to approach the patient in a holistic way", at another point he said, "The interaction with patients is what really grabbed me and made me love medicine", and also gave following advice, "But I always tell young surgeons: Beware of surgical hubris. Never be too proud to ask for help and advice. You can risk bruising your ego. Always remember it's the patient that matters most". Dr. Sculco was the driving force in 2005 in the establishment of the International Society of Orthopedic Centers, not a surprise from someone who has said, "I am a Globalist, I like to know how things are done elsewhere, learn from and borrow the best and bring the knowledge back home".**

**---Tom Sculco is a model professional, a model mentor, a model citizen. I feel very lucky to have met him, and we have had excellent and very productive collaboration in a number of programs that we have funded with our Foundation focusing on fellowships, seminars and professional development programs for Greek orthopedic surgeons. Tom truly appreciates Cavafi's message in his famous Ithaca poem, it is the journey that matters.....Kriaras, a Greek philosopher who died a couple of years ago at the age of 108, had said that true love is found through constantly seeking your ideals, Tom has been in love throughout his life! All of us at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and I personally are truly honored to have contributed towards establishing the Sculco Chair, for all that Tom is and for all that Dr. Sculco has offered to HSS and medicine at large. Thank you!**

