

## **Ceremony for the completion of the redevelopment of the “Laiko” Hospital renal transplant unit**

Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, I would like to thank you for the event today and express our deep satisfaction with the completed redevelopment of the “Laiko” Hospital’s renal transplant unit, which was realized through a grant from the SNF.

The grant covered the full redesign and renovation of the unit, including the purchase of medical and paramedical equipment, as well as supplementary renovation works in the renal clinic and the renal dialysis unit, both of which are closely connected to the transplant unit. The now upgraded transplant unit has a more functional and efficient layout—in line with international standards and guidelines.

As you may know, the post-operative phase of a successful transplant procedure requires close monitoring in a well-controlled and safe environment. With increased ventilation and designated operation areas, the new design enhances the unit’s efficacy by enabling doctors to adequately and swiftly perform varying procedures, control for infections and treat patients, who have undergone transplants, during the most critical phase of their treatment.

The field of solid organ transplantation has seen significant advances in surgical techniques, medical diagnosis, selection process, and pharmacotherapy over the past 6 decades. It has evolved from an experimental procedure to a standard-of-care, lifesaving procedure—resulting in survival rates improving in a relatively short time frame.

According to the World Health Organization, a solid organ transplant is “a gift of life”—a lifesaving and altruistic act, an expression of humanity to fellow humans. Transplantation of human cells, tissues or organs saves many lives and restores essential functions where no alternatives of comparable effectiveness exist.

Supporting Health initiatives has always been a part of SNF’s mission. As of late, the Foundation has been especially focused on helping support the National Health System through the ongoing socio-economic crisis.

Two of the most important grants in the Health area currently under implementation are the Radiotherapy Program, which calls for the replacement of 10 linear accelerators to 7 Public Hospitals throughout the country, and the procurement of 143 state-of-the-art ambulances for the National Center of Emergency Care, including their full service and maintenance for a period of 8 years. In addition, the grant will support a digital upgrade of its operations center.

The grant to the “Laiko” Hospital (approved in April 2016) is part of the Initiative Against the Greek Crisis, which is an emergency grant program to nonprofit organizations in Greece. The Initiative aims to help alleviate the severe consequences of the socioeconomic crisis and assist those most in need through these difficult circumstances.

The first program was announced in 2012 with a three-year span, during which the amount of €100 million was distributed to organizations (via 220 grants in total) focusing primarily on the areas of Social Welfare and Health, while also on the areas of Education and Culture. Upon the completion of the first phase of the program, a second phase was introduced in June 2015, announcing the allocation of another €100 million, this time within one year, intensifying the efforts against the ongoing crisis in Greece and providing immediate support to the most vulnerable groups of society. Both of these Initiatives are implemented above and beyond the Foundation’s standard grant making activities, which continue as usual.

While the role of the Foundation is not to usurp the State, the Foundation’s objective and wish remains to support in a comprehensive manner, with consistency and planning, noteworthy programs and initiatives which have the ability to offer support and bring about positive and lasting changes for the entire society.

I would like to thank you again and wish you all the best for the important work that you perform in this facility and Hospital.