

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR XANTHI MICHAIL

Professor Xanthi Michail, who is now the immediate past president of the EARM has been congratulated for her European role. A special tribute had been paid to Xanthi Michail by Guy Vanderstraeten, on proposal of Alain Delarque, during the president's dinner in Vilnius.



“It is a great honour and pleasure to give this eulogy or tribute on Professor Xanthi Michail. I know Xanthi more than 25 years and I am sure that most of you know Xanthi also for many years. As far as I remember, I think that she had always been the secretary of President of the different European bodies and of course also in Greece.

I would like to mention here the Presidency of the UEMS European Board of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine; she was also President of the European Society of PRM as well as President of the Hellenic Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.

At this moment she is the President of European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine. Above this she is Honorary President of Hellenic Society of PRM and Honorary memberships.

She is/was active on the International level ISPRM and of course in the realization of the Mediterranean Forum of PMR.

She was also member of European scientific commissions in European and International congresses.

I could continue with Mediterranean Ambassador and member of the World Federation of Neuro Rehabilitation, as well as member of other International Societies, as American Academy of P.R.M, and so on...

She was always very active and involved in the above mentioned societies with a special scientific interest focused on PRM but especially on ethics in Rehabilitation and the problems of elderly people.

That is the reason why she has created in 2014 within the ESPRM a Special Interest Scientific Committee on PRM in Ageing Persons, in which she is the Chairperson and has started a close collaboration with European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS).

Until now I tried to summarize all her European and International work but we may not forget all her education efforts not only in Greece but of course in Europe.

Through the European Board she has a lot of attention for education.

“A Teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge & wisdom in the pupils.”

“Ensuring the quality of higher education is one of the most important things we can do for future generations.” Ron Lewis, an American politician.

I could continue with additional qualifications and achievements, professional and academic experiences, publications and so on, but all this is to summarize the promotion of Physical and Rehabilitation all over the world starting in Greece. There she started and I think she is one of the founders of PRM in Greece.

Apart of her successful contribution to national, European and international bodies I would like to mention a number of qualities like the true interest in other people, the love of medicine, and the promotor of the PMR specialty .

I am thankful for the Intensive collaboration that I had in the past and still now.

I learned to know her as the delegate from Greece from the beginning and our pathway on the European level was very similar.

She is not only a very active member on all scientific and scientific levels but she did this on her particular way characterized by friendship, outstanding mentoring, integrity and efficient leadership.

From the beginning she was for Greece the single point of contact, the turntable of PRM and progressively she developed her leadership through the different scientific and professional bodies.

“Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. A leader is who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way. Like a true leader she has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others.”

She did not set out to be a leader, but she became one by the equality of her actions and the integrity of her intent.

She did not only made the bridges of between Greece and Europe but she constructed also bridges between the different European countries and made the different European bodies as they are today.

I like to conclude with a quote of Mother Teresa: *“Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same.”*

Be sure, Xanthi, you are in the heart of all of us!

Congratulations with your realizations.”
Guy Vanderstraeten

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