

SPECIAL VOLUME

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR GEORGE I. THEODOROPOULOS

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AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE CASES IN GREECE

In this special volume, we pay a modest tribute to the scientific legacy of Professor George Theodoropoulos (1954-2016), in recognition of his pioneering work and contribution to our understanding of host-parasite interactions, epidemiology of parasites, and computer applications in Veterinary Medicine among others.

Born in Athens, Greece, Professor George Theodoropoulos earned his Diploma in Veterinary Medicine at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece (AUth) in 1979. He then travelled to the United States to pursue his postgraduate studies. In 1984, he was awarded by the Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA (ISU) the degree of Master of Science in Veterinary Pathology (Veterinary Parasitology). Professor George Theodoropoulos earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Pathology in 1988 under the guidance of Professor Jerold H. Theis from the University of California, Davis, California, US (UCDavis). After a post-doctoral appointment at UCDavis from 1988 to 1990, he returned to Greece where he served as a Lecturer at the Department of Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals, Faculty of Animal Science and Hydrobiology, Agricultural University of Athens (AUA). Professor George Theodoropoulos joined AUA in 1990 where had remained for the rest of his career, holding the positions of Head of the laboratory of parasitology and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals. Among many distinctions, his was Diplomat of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (*de facto member*), member of the Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Anima Welfare, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), or member of Working Groups, EFSA. His professional achievements are outstanding, ranging from visiting fellowships (Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory of the United States, the Baker Institute of Animal Health, and the University of Bistol, UK), to membership of conference organizing comitees (11th International Conference, International Commission on Trichinellosis, San Diego, U.S.A, 8-12 Aug., 2004, XVII International Congress of Hydatology, Limassol, Cyprus, 6-10 Nov., 1995), and membership of the editorial board of research journals (Open Journal of Veterinary Medicine, Pure and Applied Biology). Professor George Theodoropoulos was awarded a considerable number of research grants and honors, while more than a hundred of research articles in highly ranked international scientific journals bear his name.

Professor George Theodoropoulos had a unique ability to inspire people around him, as he was generously sharing his ideas and insights with students, collaborators and friends.

George was Eleni's spouse since 1981, Elphy's and Ioanna's father, and Kleopatra's grandfather.

The present volume reflects a diversity of contributions from students, collaborators and friends. This honorary volume consists of fourteen original research articles written by individuals who have been inspired by his work in refining knowledge and opening new research directions. Thus, the authors present recent advances in the area of veterinary medicine while other contributions deal with relevant topics around social science, with particular cases in Greece.

FOREWORD

Professor George Theodoropoulos was a graduate student of mine while he was working for his PhD degree in Comparative Pathology at the University of California Davis, School of Medicine, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology. His thesis work involved the study of the intracellular changes in macrophages infected with Leishmania.

*George was very energetic and a dedicated researcher as a student and developed the procedures for the study and the methodology for analysis with little help from me. He also returned to my lab for a sabbatical leave after several years on the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He worked with me on an epidemiological study of a filarial worm found in dogs, *Dirofilaria immitis*. During his sabbatical leave my wife and I got to know Eleni, Ioanna and Elphi. They were a delightful family.*

Following Georges return to Greece he and I collaborated on a study of his on flea infestations of livestock in rural areas of Greece.

As you can conclude the breadth of interest George had in the field of parasitology was quite inclusive, from protozoa to helminthes to arthropods and from cellular to epidemiological methods used in the study of host- parasite interactions.

It was most unfortunate that his professional career was cut short. George had a great deal more to contribute to his field of study, to the University he served and to the people of Greece.

Sincerely,

Jerold H. Theis

*DVM, PhD Professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology,
University of California School of Medicine, Davis California.*

FOREWORD

When writing about a friend who has passed, one may glorify their qualities due to their emotional attachment and feelings of pain and loss. For George, this isn't the quite the case, because he was a man with undeniable grace upon him, but at the same time he was modest, discreet and thoughtful, to the point were many times one had to discover George's merits on his own.

Above all, George was a man with principles and values who showed his level of knowledge and understanding of the world views in his everyday life and work.

He fought against injustice, cronyism, and favoritism, and when he personally faced such issues he would sadly smile and grieve but then would stand up against them with passion and strength capable enough to overcome them.

George was indeed passionate about his science, hardworking, with an incredible work ethic, already early recognized globally, being at the same time, a conscious and dedicated Professor who passed on his skills and experiences onto his colleagues and students. Although his personal success, he never had a trace of arrogance.

Sensitive and calm, with a great deal of knowledge and an eclectic sense of humor, he was always interesting and fun to hang out with. A man who loved Eleni and their two daughters with his whole soul, a good friend, standing by you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. Fighter, genuine, and authentic throughout his life.

We are lucky to have known him and even more so to have been able to call him friend.

Wholeheartedly,

Thanasis Tsouras

MD, fmr Minister and Member of the Hellenic Parliament.

FOREWORD

George's memory of all of us, who spent many years with him, creates unavoidable contradictory feelings. If one overcomes the grief over his relatively premature passing and takes stock of the contacts they had with him, at first they feel lucky. Lucky to have been with the man, the friend, the colleague, the family.

George had so many qualities and inevitably everybody gained much in his company. For me in particular, he was a loving cousin, always standing by my side when ever there was need. Great emotional support, but also a solid guide for my life choices.

George was a man of values in his personal and professional life, with stability and quality in his principles, a virtue appreciated by all, and I believe that this is what matters the most; for someone to accomplish posthumous fame without deliberately pursuing it. George accomplished just that.

He will be always remembered with love.

Respectfully,

Dimitrios Plastiras
MD, FEBU

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