TRIBUTES

REFLECTIONS OF DIMITRIOS G. OREOPOULOS: MENTOR, ADVISOR, AND FRIEND

It was a day of mixed emotions and reflection when we were told that Dr. Dimitrios Oreopoulos had succumbed in his valiant fight against cancer. Emotional (as we all were) that a patron in the medical world was gone. Emotional at losing a mentor, advisor, business partner, and friend. But, importantly for us, also reflective. It was a day to pause and to retrace the steps of a journey that bound together passion, dedication, and commitment to a greater cause.

It was 1977 when Dr. Oreopoulos conceived the idea of a patient-focused newsletter and invited a number of us to help him turn vision into reality. The mission was simple yet noble: namely, to help patients understand their treatment and share their experiences of peritoneal dialysis (PD) with one another. And so the relationship with us at Multimed began.

However, for Dr. Oreopoulos, the relationship was not complete without the patients themselves—in all respects. As he wrote in the inaugural issue of the newsletter in October 1979: “The advent of home dialysis during the last 10 years introduced yet another partner in this team, the patient himself.”

Dr. Oreopoulos believed that cooperation between doctors, nurses, the medical industry, and patients would undoubtedly yield better results for everyone. Holding firm to that belief, he foresaw that better-trained patients and a forum in which to share their experiences would mean better treatment results. Additionally, as Dr. Oreopoulos said, “Research, the main means of maintaining high standards in the unit, is not possible without the cooperation of the patients.”

It was during those formative years that Dr. Oreopoulos championed the importance of educating, informing, and making patients equal partners in the management of their disease and their treatment.

Our relationship with Dr. Oreopoulos continued over the years, leading to a collaboration that created *Renal Family* magazine. Distributed in more than 19

countries throughout the world at its peak, *Renal Family* became the prototype for future journals with a patient-focused mandate.

Armed with nobility, passion, and an expertise renowned throughout the world, Dr. Oreopoulos also set out to share his knowledge about kidney disease and continuous ambulatory PD. Such was the beginning of *Peritoneal Dialysis International* (PDI) and its service to the needs of professionals, each of whom is dedicated to treating end-stage renal failure and to using continuous ambulatory PD.

In 1990, as PDI grew in both size and prominence, we at Multimed took on the role of publisher, continuing a valued and respected relationship with one of the world's foremost experts in nephrology. That mutual work gave us a front-row seat as vision came alive. Guidance provided by Dr. Oreopoulos not only helped us immensely as the publisher of PDI, but later also resonated throughout the firm's entire publishing portfolio. This firsthand witness to an insatiable humanitarian spirit will never be forgotten.

With the continuing development of projects such as *Humane Medicine*, nephrovention conferences, and *Timothy's Journey* (to name just a few), Dr. Oreopoulos was a constant in our professional and, at times, personal lives. His passionate dedication to the work he truly believed in set him on a journey that touched us all. That journey had a clear beginning, but perhaps has no end: The progress made strides on, step by step, albeit lacking the presence and contributions of Dr. Oreopoulos, who will be dearly missed.

Ο Θεός να φυλάει τον Δημήτρη!

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