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Message from the President

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

April 2020 will be remembered as the month of Lockdown due to the coronavirus Covid 19. The lockdown has been necessary to contain the spread of the virus and allow the healthcare system to cope with all those who contacted the disease.

It appears that our country has coped very well (relatively) with the virus and personally I am proud that we, as country, could rely on our own resources of experts to contain the deadly virus and to look for a gradual but hopeful recovery of the economy. It helped that the politicians listened and implemented the experts' recommendations.

To the best of my knowledge all our members are safe and well. Let us stay this way

A special issue of our club's bulletin in April, paid tribute to our deceased PP Christodoulos Achilleouides. As mentioned before, we shall have a memorial as soon as we are back to normality.

The District Conference will not take place in Amman physically, but it will be organised through the internet. Details of the arrangements will be communicated to us in the next few days including, I presume, a revised programme.

Our Global Grant GG 1752716 for the provision of the Cellular Biomarker for the Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Centre of the Karaiskakio Foundation has now been put to bed and officially completed. Again, congratulations to all who participated and contributed to the largest Cyprus Rotary project that is already saving children's lives.

Our current GG project which is an extension to the above GG project, is already in motion with the participation, cooperation and coordination of RC Nicosia Salamis.

We have secured the registration of the project at Rotary Foundation and the number is **GG 2012376**.

I am including in this issue the final version of the Teaser to be used for fund raising and for information purposes. Please see below.

Any one of our members who can bring in donors either from Cyprus or abroad will put smiles to our cash balances. This should be a task for all of us. Please do your best

Also, worth mentioning is that the Board has been using zoom to meet and coordinate actions and generally keep in touch.

The PETS training was conducted in three zoom sessions 27 to 29 April and was attended by the incoming Secretary Christos Agapiou and me in the capacity of Incoming President. It should be noted that two of the trainers were from our club - Iacovos Constantinides and Emiliios Tannousis. Well done.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning the zoom event of yesterday (5th May 2020) of our club with speaker our member Takis Klerides. In this issue it suffices to say that the feedback is that it was a huge success with about 60 Rotarians attending including a sizeable attendance from other clubs. Our speaker was excellent, and the audience participated actively in the question time.

May be another first for our club, in Cyprus?
More in our next issue.

Stay safe and well

With warm Rotarian Regards

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Teaser for project GG 2012376



GLOBAL GRANT PROPOSAL JOINTLY PROMOTED
BY THE ROTARY CLUBS OF NICOSIA-LEFKOTHEA AND NICOSIA-SALAMIS (RD 2452)

Enhancing the Resources and Effectiveness of the Integrated Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Unit (CCDU) at the Karaiskakio Foundation



BACKGROUND

16 Rotary Clubs from Cyprus with the support of 26 International Rotary Clubs and Donors from 11 different countries (including the Leukemia Cancer Society of London UK) and the generous support of the Rotary Foundation have recently completed

GG1752716, with the purchase of a Cellular Biomarker Detection Unit (CBDU) and the training of local health care professionals in modern diagnostic treatments of childhood cancer. The unit is the core laboratory of the recently established Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Unit at the Karaiskakio Foundation.

The CCDU provides a structured, systematic and comprehensive laboratory support to children and young adults, with a broad range of neoplastic diseases. Since its establishment, the Unit has accomplished more accurate disease diagnosis enabling local health care professionals to use advanced personalized targeted treatment protocols, which in turn deliver better treatment outcomes and reduced morbidity and toxicity.

THE NEW PROJECT

Integrated Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Unit Phase II

The Rotary Clubs of Nicosia-Lefkothea and Nicosia-Salamis are now embarking on a new Global Grant application process to further enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the CCDU with:

- a. **The Purchase a state-of-the-art hematology analyzer and**
- b. **Upgrade the FACSARIA III cell sorter (flow cytometer) with a cooling system**

The total Budget of the project is estimated at US \$65,000.

The above equipment, in a nutshell, will accelerate the diagnostic process, will be able to run with smaller samples more tests, faster, and therefore enhance the productivity of the CCDU and its capability of saving lives.

A hematology analyzer gives the initial guidance towards the direction a patient sample should follow for accurate diagnosis. It will predominantly be used for cellular and morphological analysis of patient samples, while at the same time it will provide sample information guiding towards the better investigation and diagnosis.

Taking in consideration the significance of each patient sample in diagnosis and treatment, the limited quantity provided along with the necessity of a prompt and accurate characterization, the **proposed hematology analyzer will accelerate the initial screening of the sample providing all the necessary information significantly faster.** In many cases of aggressive cancers, the **acceleration is critical in saving the life of a patient.**

Furthermore, **significantly less sample quantities** will be required in comparison to conventional methodologies, thereby enabling the doctors to **perform better diagnosis in a more efficient manner using less of the scarce sample quantities.**

In addition, the FACSARIA III cell sorter will be upgraded with a cooling system. This will **improve the viability of isolated cells, enabling more accurate subsequent molecular investigation.**

JOIN US AND SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

The two Rotary Clubs Promoting the project invite overseas Rotary Clubs, Districts and Donors to participate by pledging their contributions to our Global Grant Proposal which:

- Is in line with the Rotary International Disease Prevention and Treatment Area of Focus
- Is sustainable and measurable and
- Will satisfy a significant community need and

- Will enhance further the image of Rotary in Cyprus

For More information please contact:

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