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## Message from the President



**Dear Fellow Rotarians**

**I wish you all and your families a healthy and prosperous New Year 2020.**

Let us all make 2020 a year of even greater success for our Rotary Club and indeed make it the leading club in Cyprus. This is the strategic goal that we have all subscribed to at the Club Assembly, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2019.

To achieve such an ambitious goal, we need to have the participation of every member and support the events of the club including the fundraising efforts. This effort translates and demands from you some of your time, your contacts in your professional circles and engagement of your friends and social circles. Our participation is not satisfactory, not for the goals we have set. We need to enhance further our membership and attract persons who aspire to the Rotary objectives and ready to contribute. Can you imagine if each one of us made a concerted effort and recruited an additional member? We would double in size and quality.

### **Global Grant (GG) Project**

The Board has been pursuing our strategic goal of starting a Global Grant project every other year starting from the current Rotarian year. As you are aware, we have set our initial efforts to help the Makarios Hospital for Children with the equipment required for a Burns Centre however this effort had to be postponed because the hospital decided to build a new wing to house the Burns Centre which will take a couple of years to complete. We have pledged to revisit the project when they are ready.

Various other efforts including a project for the School of the Blind did not materialise as the proposed project was not accepted by the Rotary Foundation. I am however delighted to announce that in cooperation with the Karaiskakio Foundation we have defined a GG project which is an extension to our Mega project we so proudly completed in 2019. We have submitted the framework of the project to our contact at the RF Daniel Weyl who confirmed that it is within the 6 areas of focus hence acceptable to the RF.

We are reporting on this project on another page of this bulletin.

The selection of this project does not preclude the consideration of other projects that may qualify for a Global Grant.

### **Incoming Board for 2020 – 2021**

We have an obligation to report to the Rotary International the incoming Board members for the next Rotary Year that includes as a minimum the key officers and as many of the other posts.

At a meeting on the 17 December 2019 the requirements of the RI have been satisfied and will be communicated to RI by the Executive Secretary PDDG Iacovos Constantinides.

I am particularly pleased to welcome in the team for 2020-2021 fellow Rotarian Yiannis Tomassides as the Vice- President for the year who will progress to become President the year after. This establishes a succession much required.

I also welcome Christos Agapiou as the Incoming Secretary who I am sure will be doing a great job.

### **Christmas Dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2019**

Thank you for making the event a huge success. We were joined by the clubs of Kyrenia, Nicosia – Salamis and Nicosia Ledra and we managed to further improve the bonding between our clubs and between our members. We had over 80 persons participating, and it was a joy to welcome a large number of our Rotaractors as well.

Young and old enjoyed the evening with the music and song of Giorgos Stamataris at the Buono.

### **Vasilopita evening**

Just a reminder to keep the date on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 for this event. We want to achieve maximum participation. We promise you another great evening. See details below

### **Subscriptions**

We are still chasing members to bring their subscriptions up to date. This is taking time and effort on the part of the Treasurer and myself unnecessarily.

This practice of chasing members to pay their dues needs to stop and I hope you will help me to achieve this. I must however, express my thanks to all of you who paid on time and without prompting.

As per decision of club assembly of 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 those who are not up to date will have their membership discontinued.

**We intend to abide fully by this decision and shall inform you accordingly**

A new roster of members will be published in early January 2020.

### **District news**

We have received Season's Greetings from our District Governor to which we responded. May I remind you that the special offer for the District Conference in Amman ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

## Global Grant Project

**We are copying here below the description of the project and the initial response of Daniel Weyl of the RF.**

### **The Project**

#### **Hemato oncology Diagnostics**

#### **A Continuation project of the Integrated Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Unit**

Cancer is a general term given to diseases caused by the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells. With one out of every 285 children being diagnosed with childhood cancer every year and with more than 1,200 children dying from childhood cancer yearly, our mission is to continue working towards the timely diagnosis, disease stage classification and monitoring of pediatric cancer cases. Leukemia is one of the most common types of childhood cancer. It is generally classified as cancer of the bone marrow and blood, constituting about 30% of all childhood cancers. The two most common types are acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), both of which can grow quickly and require immediate treatment.

Early diagnosis and classification of childhood leukemia is important in order to determine the treatment, which will provide the best chance of survival. The Integrated Childhood Cancer Diagnostic of the Karaiskakio Foundation (KF) performs clinical investigation and diagnosis of leukemias according to the World Health Organization (WHO) classification, following morphological, immunological, cytogenetic, genetic, and clinical guidelines. Blood counts and blood smears are amongst the first tests performed for the investigation of leukemias. A complete blood count (CBC) determines the number each type of blood cells (red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets) in a particular sample and a blood smear, a small sample of blood spread on a glass slide and looked at under a microscope, gives indications regarding abnormal blood cell numbers and morphological changes. Immunophenotyping, performed with the use of flow cytometric techniques, further classifies leukemic cells and determines the exact subtype of leukemia based on the expression of certain proteins. Additionally, flow cytometry can also be used to estimate the amount of DNA in the leukemia cells. This is important to know, especially in ALL, because cells with more DNA than normal (a DNA index of 1.16 or higher) are often more sensitive to chemotherapy, and these leukemias have a better prognosis. Flow cytometry is also used to measure the response to treatment and the existence of minimal residual disease (MRD) in some types of leukemias. These tests are mostly done on cells from blood and bone marrow, but are also available on cells from lymph nodes and other body fluids. On a molecular level, chromosomal aberrations are investigated by Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH), where special fluorescent dyes attach to specific parts of particular chromosomes, using blood or bone marrow samples. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is also a very sensitive test that can identify chromosome and gene changes, which are too small to be seen under a microscope. Other molecular and genetic tests include next generation sequencing (NGS) which looks for specific gene changes in the leukemic cells.

Following the successful establishment of a new clinical laboratory at the Karaiskakio Foundation, the Integrated Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Unit continuous to provide a structured, systematic and comprehensive laboratory support to children with a broad range of neoplastic diseases. The accomplishment

of a more accurate diagnosis has improved the capacity of local health care professionals to implement the use of advanced personalized targeted treatment protocols with better outcome and reduced toxicity. For the correct operation and execution of our work, a hematology analyzer will be purchased which will give the initial guidance towards the direction a patient sample should follow for accurate diagnosis. Based on the fact that the cellular and morphological analysis is an integral part of any hematology laboratory, a state of the art hematology analyzers will be predominantly used for cell counts and differential leukocyte analysis, but will also be capable of reporting additional parameters and provide much more information regarding individual patient samples guiding towards the better investigation and diagnosis of hematological malignancies. In more detail, the hematology analyzer will have fluorescence flow cytometry capabilities providing a 6-part differential (including Immature Granulocytes) on every sample. Reagents and consumables (solutions, buffers and controls) required are also included in the budget. Additionally, the FACSAria III cell sorter also acquired with previous funding from the Rotary Clubs, will be upgraded with a cooling system for sort collection into tube holders, multi-well plates, and slides. This will improve the viability of sorted cells, enabling more accurate subsequent molecular investigation by NGS and FISH.

Our services are and will continue to be provided free of charge to all pediatric cancer patients from the Greek, Turkish and other communities in Cyprus. Furthermore, our services are available to other patients with haematological malignancies (e.g. lymphomas and multiple myeloma).

**Budget**

<b>i.</b>	<b>Equipment Purchase</b>	<b>€ 49.682,50</b>
	Hematology analyzer (€32.130,00)	
	FACSAria cooling system (€17.552,50)	
<b>ii.</b>	<b>Reagent and Consumables</b>	<b>€ 5.000,00</b>
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>€54.682,50</b>

**Correspondence with Rotary Foundation**

Dear Daniel

May I introduce myself,

I am Demetris Pantazis, the current President of RC Nicosia Lefkothea no. 25065, Cyprus, District 2452

First of all, I would like to thank you for all the help and guidance you have given our club in connection with GG 1752716 (Childhood Cancer Diagnostic Centre – Cellular Biomarker Detection Unit). I was one of the three-member committee that helped with its implementation

I am very pleased to say that the project has been completed and you should shortly be getting the final report from PDDG Iacovos Constantinides who was the leader of the 3-member committee responsible for its implementation. He sends his best regards

One of the main strategic objectives of our club is to start a Global Grant every other year and as it is my first year as President, I would like to start a GG project without delay. Although we have been looking at a number of ideas, (one of them

was sent to you recently by Iacovos which would have problems to qualify) we have decided to consider the attached proposal which is an extension of the GG 1752716 project

We believe this project would be within the resources of our club and it is of a very modest size which would make it easier to complete.

A brief description is attached for your perusal and comments for which I am very grateful.

Your early response will be much appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

With warm Rotarian Regards

Demetris

### **Response by RF**

Dear Demetris,

Thanks for your message and for sharing your project concept with me. It certainly appears to be eligible for global grant funding under our Disease Prevention and Treatment area of focus. I'm copying guidance below for you to keep in mind as you prepare your application. If I can answer any questions that come up, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Supplying medical equipment to health care facilities: Equipment must meet current technology standards and satisfy environmental criteria for power, water, and air quality. Grant sponsors must provide proof of ownership and operational and maintenance plans, including documentation showing that personnel received training on equipment operation and maintenance, or a training plan that ensures compliance with these requirements.

Wishing you and yours a very joyful holiday season!

Daniel

Daniel J. Weyl  
Regional Grants Officer | Rotary Grants  
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[rotary.org](http://rotary.org)

### **Incoming Board for Rotary Year 2020-2021**

At a meeting of our club on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 the following roles have been assigned to nominated members for the Rotarian Year 2020-2021

Demetris Pantazis	President
Yannis Tomassides	Vice President and Incoming President
Iacovos Constantinides	Foundation and Executive Secretary
Christos Agapiou	Secretary
Akis Papachristodoulou	Treasurer
George Theocharides	Community Service
Emilios Tannousis	Trainer
Popi Kanari	Youth
Panicos Nicolaidis	Sergeant at Arms
Petros Stylianou	Membership

There are still some vacancies which we shall be filling as we go along Anybody interested in serving on the Board please get in touch with the President or the Executive Secretary. Our new members are encouraged to do so either as members of the Board or members of the various committees of the Avenues of Service.

### **Vasilopita evening – Ladies night**

**Date:** 17 January 2020

**Time :** 8.30 PM

**Venue :** Gefsicleous 62

**Address:** 62 Pericleous str, Strovolos 2021

**Food :** Cyprus meze

**Drinks:** unlimited carafe wine, beers, soft drinks

**Price :** 25 euros pp

**Confirm your participation to Secretary [angela.ergatoude@gmail.com](mailto:angela.ergatoude@gmail.com)**

**As soon as possible but not later than 13 January 2020**

**We need a good turnout.**

### **Christmas Dinner on the 10th December 2019 at the Buono**

A special tribute and welcome go to, the RCs of Kyrenia, Salamis, Ledra and other Rotarians who joined with us to celebrate the festive Season and their contribution for a successful evening.

Stamataris was excellent and a top-class singer. We also enjoyed the musical talents of Hara Aresti.

We acknowledge the presence of George Psimolophites DDG, Iacovos Constantinides PDDG, Litsa Aresti PDDG, Kypros Zantis President of Kyrenia RC, Annie Hjimarkou President of Salamis, PP Costas Vasiliou from Ledra and of all the Rotarians with their spouses and their friends.

May there be many occasions when we share our events.

It was delightful to have with us most of our Rotaractors who were presented to the club and interacted with the members. Those present were the President Constantinos Christodoulides, Marina Kolokotroni, Miltiades Soutzis, Andreas Spanos and Ersi Christodoulidou. Thank you for joining us.

The choice of venue and the entertainment of Giorgos Stamataris as well as the organization of the event will be remembered by us all. Acknowledgements to Angela Ergatoude, Anastasia Orphanou, Akis Papachristodoulou for their work to make the evening a success.

We also thank those who have donated prizes for the raffle (Coral Beach, Nissi Beach, Sotos Iacovides, Koulla Sophocleous and Yianna Antoniou).

Sadly, the request for photos of each table did not have the required response hence our available photos are limited. 😞

Other photos taken were too dark to include in the Bulletin.

If there are photos that have not been sent to the President, please send them as soon as possible to include in our archives or the next Bulletin issue. Thank you





The Rotaractors of Nicosia – Lefkothea Rotaract Club





