

**29 March 2007**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Within the framework of the visits of Deans Barry R. Bloom and John Lichten and of the professors of the School of Public Health of the University of Harvard to Cyprus and Greece, for the purpose of promoting the Harvard Foundation for Public Health and the Environment of Cyprus, the American delegation visited the Athens Diagnostic and Treatment Centre on Tuesday, 27 March 2007.

During their visit, they took part in an event entitled 'Public and Private Health in Greece today'.

The coordinator of this event was professor Dimitrios Linos, Director of the A' Surgery Clinic of the Athens Diagnostic and Treatment Centre, who is also a member of the executive committee of the 'Harvard Public Health' programme in Cyprus.

On behalf of the Hospital's Management, the Vice-Chairman of HYGEIA S.A., Mr Themistoklis Charamis, who spoke of the Hospital's accreditation by the Joint Commission International, and Administrative Manager, Mr Anthony Rapp, who referred to the efforts that are being made to reorganise HYGEIA S.A. and to Greece's Private Health System, took part in the event.

The Chairman of the Societe Anonyme of Health Facilities S.A. referred to Greece's Public Health System. The former General Secretary of the Hellenic Ministry of Health, Mrs M. Violaiki, who is also the first Greek to hold a Master's degree in public health from the University of Harvard and who played an important role in restructuring the Public Health System in Greece and in the World Health Organisation, also took part in the discussion.

Mr Filippos Domikritou, a Harvard professor, subsequently, spoke about the campaign against smoking that has been initiated in Harvard in Cyprus and expressed his conviction that the campaign will soon be launched in Greece. At this point, Professor of Respiratory Medicine of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Mr Panaghiotis Bechrakis, took the floor and noted that although laws exist in Greece they, unfortunately, are not applied.

Dean John Lichten, who closed the proceedings, expressed his satisfaction of the level of the meeting and emphasised the clinic and academic image of HYGEIA S.A.