



ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΥΓΕΙΑ



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ΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΠΑΙΔΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ

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PRESS RELEASE

MITERA: THE HEART OF PEDIATRIC CARDIO SURGERY NOW BEATS IN GREECE

- **The first in Greece Pediatric Cardiological – Pediatric Cardiosurgical Clinic operating in a private pediatric hospital**
- **Treatment of all Pediatric Cardiological – Pediatric Cardiosurgical cases now in our country**

With the operation of the new state-of-the-art Clinic, an investment that reached 6 million euro, the need to transfer patients abroad is now unnecessary. At the same time, a very large amount of money is saved for the Public Insurance Funds by keeping such children in our country.

The following were stated during a **Press Conference** that took place on **Tuesday June 10th 2008** by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of HYGEIA-MITERA, Mr. Konstantinos Stavrou, at the occasion of the opening for the Pediatric Cardiology – Pediatric Cardiosurgical Clinic MITERA.

According to statistical studies, each year over 1,000 children are born in Greece with congenital heart diseases, which require interventional cardiological or cardiosurgical procedures.

“The existing pediatric cardiosurgical centers in our countries”, Mr. Stavrou continued, “can cover only a portion of the procedures, and as a result over 200 cases are forced to refer to hospitals abroad, burdening the Social Security Funds with an annual expenditure of many million euro”.

The new Clinic is staffed by the following individuals:

- Georgios Sarris, Pediatric Cardiosurgeon, as Head of the Pediatric Cardiosurgical Clinic, with training and experience in the U.S.A. (Harvard, Stanford University, Emory, Cleveland Clinic) and at the Onaseio Cardiosurgical Center.
- Ioannis Papagiannis, Pediatric Cardiologist, as Head of the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic, with training and experience in the U.S.A. (Washington, Duke, Harvard University) and at the Onaseio Cardiosurgical Center.
- Georgios Kyrvasilis, Anesthesiologist, as Head of the Pediatric Cardio-Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Unit, with training and experience in the

U.S.A. (Washington, Harvard University) and at the Onaseio Cardiosurgical Center and many other high-level scientific partners.

The new Clinic includes Surgeries, Cardiological-Cardiosurgical I.C.U. and a Hemodynamic-Electrophysiology Laboratory, exclusively for children.

Moreover, the Chairman of the Hygeia Group Executive Committee, Mr. Themistoklis Haramis stated the following: "Our vision is to develop and expand the HYGEIA Group in South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, creating at the same time in Athens, reference centers for specific specializations, which will support regional units. Within this context, the Pediatric Cardiosurgical Clinic of MITERA was established, to cover the needs not only of Greece, but also those of neighboring countries. The first cardiosurgical case was already treated with success, of a child from Serbia, free of charge, with the intermediation of Princess Aikaterini of Yugoslavia".

He also stated that in the context of the extensive Corporate Social Responsibility Program, the Hygeia Group, by continuing its close cooperation amongst others, with the Associations of Children with Heart diseases of Athens and Thessaloniki, will treat, **at no cost**, children that do not have the necessary financial resources.