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PRESS RELEASE

Nurses, taking the lead in Patient Safety ***1st Scientific Nursing Conference of the Private Healthcare Sector***

The **1st Scientific Nursing Conference of the Private Healthcare Sector**, organized by **HYGEIA Group** and the **Hellenic Nurses Association**, with the participation of **Athens Association of Midwives** was concluded with great success and the participation of around 1,500 participants on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at Athens Music Hall.

This Conference, accredited by the **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**, was realized under the auspices of the **Ministry for Health, the Prefect of Athens, the Mayor of Athens, the Mayor of Maroussi and A' & B' Athens TEI (Technical Educational Institutes)**; Nurses from all over Greece and Midwives from Cyprus, Turkey and Albania as well as Physicians and other healthcare professionals participated in the conference. HYGEIA-MITERA BoD Chairman, Mr. Konstantinos Stavrou and many other representatives from the country's public bodies addressed the audience at the opening ceremony.

The aim of the Conference was to promote cooperation between the scientific bodies of the Healthcare Public and Private sector and to exchange knowledge and experience, **for the first time**, through applications that have already started being implemented, either in collective or individual initiatives at the healthcare services provision premises aimed at **patient safety**.

The President of the Conference & Head of Nursing Services Training at HYGEIA Group Hospitals, Mrs Olga Daliggarou, stated that 'HYGEIA Group, a pioneer in innovations and initiatives, practically supports the vital significance of the nursing staff and the ongoing training in the healthcare services. With HYGEIA hospital accreditation by the international quality standard **Joint Commission International (JCI)**, *"we translated theory into action"*, acquiring knowledge and experience, which we feel that we owe and can exchange with all our colleagues, from the Public and Private sector. Educational institutes requested for these applications to be taught to healthcare professions students.'

The Scientific Program included a number of presentations and papers covering a broad range of subjects focusing on modern nursing, obstetrics and pediatric care, exclusively aimed at patient safety. The speech by the scholar Konstantinos Georgousopoulos was

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overwhelming. The subject was: 'Palliative care in Art and Literature', where emphasis was placed on the 'palliative' dimension of the nurse's role taking examples from Art and Literature, with an eloquent and substantiated discourse, that overwhelmed the audience, combined with the melodies by the young pianist Markos Panteliadis.

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