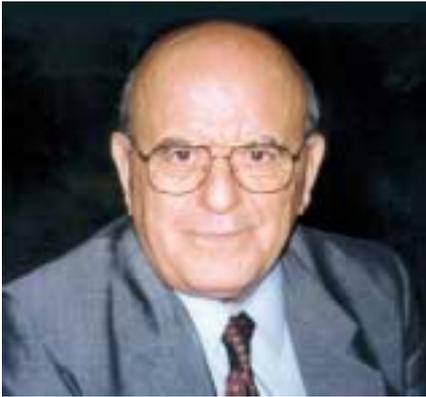


OBITUARY



CHRISTOS MICHALOPOULOS 1931-2002

The Greek cardiology community recently lost a leading member who had contributed much to Greek and international cardiology. Christos Michalopoulos graduated from the Military Medical School of the University of Thessaloniki in 1956 and became a qualified cardiologist in 1969, initially serving in administrative posts in the Army. His hospital career began in 1977 when he was appointed Registrar (1st grade) serving as Asst. Director of the 401 General Military Hospital of Athens' Cardiology Clinic.

In 1979 he was promoted to Head of the same Department, a post he held until 1981, at which time he was made Head of the Departments of Internal Medicine and Cardiology of the 411 General Military Hospital in Tripoli. In 1983 he was appointed Head of the Cardiology Department of the Army Veterans' Hospital (NIMTS), a post he retained until 1987. In this post he demonstrated remarkable organisational skills. He significantly improved the prestige of the Department, continuing a tradition of wise management.

Under his directorship at NIMTS, a series of major papers were published by the Cardiology Department in both national and international medical journals of repute. The orderly, well-organized and ethical practice of medicine during his period as Head of Department bear witness to his outstanding leadership. It is not going too far to say that it was a golden age for cardiology at NIMTS.

Christos Michalopoulos was a talented author, with extreme attention to detail and excellent revision skills of papers, articles, and reviews penned by his own hand or members of his group. He wrote chapters in leading textbooks such as "*Arterial Hypertension*" by G.I. Wolf and R.S. Eliot published in 1977 and in the Greek edition of the renowned book by J.W. Hurst "*The Heart*" (4th Ed. 1978). He was also one of the main contributors to the publication of a very interesting volume on "*Haemostasis Disorders*" printed in 1990. This work was published by the Committee of Thromboembolic Disease Prevention, of which he was a founding member and Secretary General from 1976 until his death. He was a Editor of the Armed Forces Medical Review from 1968 to 1972 and contributed decisively to improving both the appearance and content of the Journal. He also served as Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the Hellenic Journal of Cardiology between 1984 and 1985 and as Editor-in-Chief from 1990 to 2000. Michalopoulos' editorial work was particularly appreciated at a European level, when he becoming editing consultant of the *European Heart Journal* in 1991. He also participated in the preparation of the "*Dictionary of Cardiological Terms*" published by the Hellenic Cardiological Society in 1995 in collaboration with Professors D. Sideris and I. Gialafos.

This publication was exceptionally useful and is a major aid even today. In addition to his innovative editorial work, he was also an excellent translator, translating many leading texts such as "*Modern Diagnostics*" by H.F and R.B. Conn, the aforementioned works by Wolf & Eliot and Hurst, as well as Goldberger's book, "*A primer of Water, Electrolyte and Acid-base syndromes*" in 1975 and the work "*Emergency Cardiology*" by Wolf & Forker in 1977. All his translations demonstrate his obvious attention to detail, exceptional knowledge of the Greek language and the diligence of a scientist.

He was an excellent speaker, fully up to date and extremely humorous, he could keep his audience's interest undiminished.

The writer had the opportunity to collaborate with Christos Michalopoulos on many occasions either of the Committee for the Thromboembolic Disease Prevention or during the planning and implementation of the multicentre HELAS study or on the editorial committee of the *Hellenic Journal of Cardiology*.

Besides my friendship with him, I held him in complete respect. Moreover, in his social life Christos was pleasant company, spirited and polite, no matter how austere and stern he was when carrying out his professional duties.

He was discharged from the Army with the rank of Brigadier in 1987 and practiced medicine with same distinction until 2000. He prided himself on his remarkable family and it is to his wife, Vassiliki and daughters Angela and Katerina that we express our heartfelt condolences.

Christos Michalopoulos' loss reverberates throughout the entire Greek cardiological family. In addition to being an acclaimed cardiologist, hospital doctor and soldier, he placed great value on morals and was a special man.

Dionysios F. Kokkinos