



Athens, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011

## Press Release

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, an important medical congress will take place in the historical Aegean island of Kos. The *European Society for Emergency Medicine* (EuSEM) and the *American Academy of Emergency Medicine* (AAEM), with the support of the *Hellenic Society for Emergency Medicine* (HeSEM), co-organize one of the greatest Congresses in *Emergency Medicine*, worldwide:

### ***The 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congress (6<sup>th</sup> MEMC)***

The *Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congresses* have become an institution, that started in 2001 in Stressa, in Italy, and since then continues every two years in a country of the Mediterranean basin, in 2003 in Spain (Sitges), in 2005 in France (Nice), in 2007 in Italy (Sorrento) and in 2009 in Spain (Valencia). It is an exceptional honour for our country that this year the Congress is held in Kos. The *Mediterranean Emergency Medicine Congresses*, together with the *European Congresses of Emergency Medicine*, signal and highlight scientific achievements in the field of Emergency Medicine in Europe, as well as the World.

The 6<sup>th</sup> MEMC is important for Greece for one more reason. The discipline of *Emergency Medicine*, despite continuous efforts over the years for its establishment, has not yet been recognized as an independent medical specialty in Greece, as only in a small minority of European countries. As a consequence, there is lack of coordination in the Emergency Departments, which, together with the lack of doctors trained in Emergency Medicine, results in suboptimal management of patients with emergency problems. Today, the economic crisis makes more obvious the need for improvement of Emergency Care, as an increased part of the population seeks care in the Emergency Departments, the only available source of medical care for the poorer, even in the developed countries.

The 6<sup>th</sup> MEMC will give the opportunity to more than 1200 participants from approximately 70 countries, to attend lectures and courses on current topics in Emergency Medicine from 135 world class speakers and international personalities and to be updated on the latest scientific research from 800 oral presentations. On Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> of September, the participants will have the privilege to witness the ritual of the *Hippocratic Oath* in the ancient temple of Asklepios in Kos, a kind offer of the municipality of Kos.

### The Presidents of the Congress

***Abdel Bellou,***  
President,  
*European Society for  
Emergency Medicine*

***Howard Blumstein,***  
President,  
*American Academy of  
Emergency Medicine*

***Panayiotis Agouridakis,***  
President,  
*Hellenic Society for  
Emergency Medicine*