

# **Wonca Europe Award of Excellence in Health Care:**

## **The 5 - Star Doctor 2013**

Wonca Europe is proud to announce the winner of the Wonca Europe Award of Excellence in Health Care: The 5-Star Doctor 2013:

### ***Dr Athanasios Symeonidis***

### ***Nominated by the Greek Association of General Practitioners (ELEGEIA)***

#### **From the ELEGEIA description of the nominee's activities:**

##### ***A care provider***

*Dr Athanasios Symeonidis has been in active practice as GP since 1981; he was serving in a rural single handed practice in North Greece from mid '81' to February 1987 when he moved to Chalastra Health Centre of Thessaloniki county till August of 1999 ; from 1999 he has been serving to Health Centre of Paleohori in rural area of Chalkidiki (1999-2009)and Health Centre of N.Mihaniona from 2009 till now. All working places belong to the National Health System providing primary care including acute and chronic disease management, preventive activities and out of hours service (24h/7days) .*

*He has developed a reputation for clinical skills in diagnosis and management of chronic diseases while he has a special interest in hypertension, diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, pain relief, terminal care and depression, dementia.*

*He has worked with the Greek Association of GPs in a number of projects having to do with multidisciplinary home care, hypertension, prevention, health promotion, communication skills.*

##### ***A decision maker***

*Dr Athanasios Symeonidis has been active in the Greek Association of General Practitioners (ELEGEIA) from its establishment (1986) till now, since he was one the founders. He has been serving ELEGEIA through offices like Honorary Treasurer , Gen. Sectetary and Vice President. He had been the National Representative in EURACT from 1992 to 2007 being its Honorary Treasurer for 6 years.*

*He worked with a number of important European GPs (Igor Svab, Justin Allen, Adam Windac, Yonah Yaphe) as members of the Member Service Committee of EURACT which developed the Teaching the Teachers Course; that course was performed in a number of countries having as a result the production of more than 1500 teachers in GP.Dr Athanasios*

*Symeonidis transferred this know how in Greece, designing, organizing and running the Teaching the Teachers Course for the last 12 years.*

*He also worked with the President of ELEGEIA for the acceptance of ELEGEIA as a full organizational member of WONCA.*

*As member of the Organizing Committee he worked for the hosting of the WONCA EUROPE 2005, which was held in Kos Island, Greece*

*Since 1992 has been working as Tutor in Vocational Training Scheme in Thessaloniki, while he is Chairman of the Summative Assessment Committee.*

*In 2006 he was member of the working group for the reform of the NHS of the Ministry of Health.*

### ***A community leader***

*Dr Athanasios Symeonidis has participated in community interventions having to do with the promotion of breast feeding, prevention of cervical cancer, hypertension, osteoporosis, mental health, cancer prevention.*

*He organised a network of active GPs who through a training programme got adequate skills for the implementation of screening and treating diseases as depression and dementia in rural areas.*

### ***A team member***

*Dr Symeonidis has been Chairman of the Education Committee of ELEGEIA since 1990. The current period he coordinates 10 Task Force Groups working on different issues on BME, VT and CME.*

*He has been member of the Organizing Committee of all 25 National Conferences of ELEGEIA and designer, organizer and trainer of a big number of courses, seminars, workshops and symposiums for GPs.*

**Wonca Award of Excellence in Health Care: The 5-Star Doctor** is an award to be conferred on physicians, who in the opinion of the Wonca Council, have made a significant impact on the health of individual and communities, through personal contributions to health care and the profession. It is instituted in an attempt to increase the global development of Family Medicine, global networking and partnership.

**Wonca Europe received five nominations for the 2013 Award:**

1. Athanasios Symeonidis, Greece
2. Liljana Kochankovska, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
3. Radmila Ristovska, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
4. Emre Bulent, Turkey
5. Mihaela Carmaciu, UK

**The 5-Star Doctor Award Selection Committee consisted of:**

Tony Mathie (chair), UK; Ilse Hellman, Austria; Jose Dr Miguel Roman Bueno Ortiz, Spain

**The selection committee considered the following criteria:**

- a nominee must best meet the principle of the 5-star doctor
- a nominee should be a serving physician in mid-career who in addition to providing regular service:
  - provides innovative services for a community or special group
  - developed services where they were previously not available
  - supported colleagues in another region, country or college
  - performed academic work (teaching, research, quality assurance) of exceptional quality and relevance
- a nominee need not be a family doctor
- a nominee can work outside his or her region, or create something that can be used outside his or her region or serve as a role model to other regions
- the "Towards Unity for Health" criteria will be kept in mind: the attributes of the 5-star doctor are:
  - care provider who considers the patient as an integral part of a family and the community and provides high standard clinical care (excluding or diagnosing serious illness and injury, manages chronic disease and disability) and personalises preventive care within a long term, trusting relationship
  - decision maker, who chooses which technologies to apply ethically and cost-effectively while enhancing the care that he or she provides;
  - communicator, who is able to promote healthy life-styles by emphatic explanation, thereby empowering individuals and groups to enhance and protect their health;
  - community leader, who has won the trust of the people among whom he or she works, who can reconcile individual and community health requirements and initiate action on behalf of the community;
  - team member, who can work harmoniously with individuals and organisations, within and outside the health care system, to meet his or her patients and community's needs.

**The 2013 Wonca Europe 5-Star Doctor Award will be presented at the WONCA Conference in Prague, 25 – 29 June 2013.**

**The winner of the 2013 Wonca Europe 5-Star Doctor Award will be one of the three European candidates for the Wonca World 5-Star Doctor Award of 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.**