

Preface

The 5th International Hydrocephalus Workshop was held May 20-23, 2010, in the Aegean island of Crete, Greece. The workshop was preceded by the 24th Annual Hellenic Congress of Neurosurgery and the 4th Annual Neurosurgery Nurses Meeting as well. This volume includes papers presented at the 5th Hydrocephalus Workshop which recent updates and new concepts in hydrocephalus were introduced.

Under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Marmarou there have been two previous Hydrocephalus Workshops on beautiful Greek islands, the 3rd International Hydrocephalus Workshop on the Island of Kos in 2001 and the 4th on the Island of Rhodes in 2007. The planning for the 5th International Workshop was well along when unexpectedly Professor Marmarou died. His last wish was that his work and especially the tradition of International Hydrocephalus Workshops “continue.” With that in mind and with the help and support of the Hellenic Neurosurgical Society, the hydrocephalus study group at the Medical College of Virginia, the International Society for Hydrocephalus and Cerebrospinal Fluid Disorders and the very professional congress organization of Artion, we were able to continue with Professor Marmarou’s vision of getting together the leaders in clinical and basic science research in the field of hydrocephalus.

We believe that this workshop was a major turning point, and made a significant contribution to the effort to ensure further understanding of timely diagnosis and treatment of hydrocephalus. The wide number of topics covered, including advances in management of both pediatric and adult hydrocephalus, identifying shunt responders, clinical experiences in endoscopic third ventriculostomy, clinical trials, pathophysiology, experimental studies, introducing the new classification for hydrocephalus and the option of all workshop participants to become actively involved in its proceedings, guaranteed that this objective was achieved.

As Professor Kouzelis stated in his opening remarks, during this meeting, our participants were able to follow Ariadne’s lost thread through the ruins of the ancient Minoan labyrinth on the mythical island of Crete, and find the much sought-after solution to the ancient Hippocratic riddle of hydrocephalus.

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