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ANNOUNCEMENT

"The Gift of Life": Organ Transplantation Beyond the Boundaries of Medicine – Where Science and Art Meet Humanity

Thessaloniki, 2/11/2026

Taking an innovative approach to organ transplantation that goes beyond the strict boundaries of medicine and places the human being at its centre, the scientific conference entitled "The Gift of Life" will take place on **Saturday, 7 November 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Bissell Library of Anatolia College (17 V. Sevenidi Street, Pylaia).

The conference is organised by the Thessaloniki Branch of the Scientific Society of Medical Students of Greece (E.E.F.I.E.), based at Aristotle University (AUTh), in collaboration with AUTh's Transplantation Surgery Clinic, the Centre for Research and Innovation in Solid Organ Transplantation (KEKMSO), the non-profit organisation "Give to Live", and Anatolia College. The event is held under the auspices of the Hellenic Parliament, the Municipality of Thessaloniki and AUTh's School of Medicine.

The conference aims to explore organ transplantation through the lens of art, using music, painting and cinema as means of understanding this supreme act of giving and social solidarity.

The scientific and artistic programme is under the academic supervision of Professor Georgios Tsoulfas, Vice Chair of AUTh's School of Medicine and Director of the University's Transplantation Surgery Clinic.

The conference will be honoured by the presence of His Eminence **Metropolitan of Thessaloniki Philotheos**, who will deliver a speech entitled "Organ Donation as the Supreme Act of Love and Solidarity". The **Hellenic Transplant Organization** (EOM) will play a central role in the scientific programme, contributing a special presentation entitled "The Hellenic Transplant Organization: Safeguarding the Gift of Life". The conference will also welcome Professor Vassilios Papalois, a distinguished Professor

of Transplant Surgery at Imperial College London, who will examine in depth the "Ethical Dilemmas in Transplantation". At the same time, bringing science and art together, the programme will feature a special musical tribute by the popular artist Giannis Zouganelis.

The conference will focus on the following main themes:

- **Discussion Panels and Personal Experiences:** The programme includes thought-provoking discussions, such as "From Donor to Recipient: The Chain of Life" and "Life After Transplantation – A Second Chance". During these sessions, relatives of organ donors and transplant recipients will share their personal experiences.
- **Experiential Workshop:** A dedicated workshop entitled "Transplantation: Beyond the Medical Procedure" will explore the emotional dimensions of transplantation and the role of the physician in this particularly sensitive context.
- **Where Art Meets Medicine:** Art will complement the scientific programme. The popular artist Giannis Zouganelis will make a special appearance in a musical tribute. The artistic programme will also conclude with a special musical performance by the Soundwave Club of Anatolia College, under the guidance of teachers Olga Stefa, Konstantinos Katsos and Marios Sotiropoulos, as well as a screening of the short film "The Gift of Life".
- **Parallel Activities in the Foyer:** Throughout the event, information stands will operate in the foyer, with the Hellenic Transplant Organization (EOM) playing a central role and providing support. Participating organisations will also include the "IPARXO" Association, the Northern Greece Kidney Patients Association, E.N.A., the "LAMPSI" Association, as well as a dedicated information and registration station for volunteer bone marrow donors, organised by the Thessaloniki Branch of E.E.F.I.E.

The organisers describe the event as an open meeting that brings healthcare professionals and society together, inviting all citizens who wish to learn more about organ transplantation and raise their awareness of this important issue.

The event poster is attached.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.