

Press Release



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THE SHAKOLAS EDUCATIONAL CENTRE FOR CLINICAL MEDICINE HAS BEEN INAUGURATED

President of the Republic: UCY's groundbreaking work is a remarkable feat for the academic institution and the nation

The President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades has inaugurated the Shakolas Education Centre for Clinical Medicine (SECCM). Held on Monday, January 6th, 2017 at the recently renovated Center, the inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of Health Dr. George Pamboridis, Former President Mr. George Vassiliou, ambassadors, parliament members and representatives of political parties, mayors, Mr. Nikos Shakolas, one of the UCY's greatest benefactors for this milestone, his wife Mrs. Elpida Shakola, UCY Council President Mr. Manthos Mavrommatis, and a number of the University officials, medical school faculty members and students.

As of September 2016, the UCY Medical School is housed at the SECCM (located next to Nicosia General Hospital), along with its clinical laboratories, the anatomy laboratories, the amphitheater of 350 places and the Centre of Molecular Medicine Research. The building has been designed by the Spanish architects Antonio Linan and Antonio Gordon and the project is expected to be completed by 2021 on a total budget of €15.000.000, including the €9 million donation by the Nicos and Elpida Shakolas Institution.

In his address, the President said among others: The establishment of the Medical School at UCY is part of the State's plan to reform the health sector and upgrade the healthcare services and products provided in Cyprus. The School's mission is not only to create an ideal educational environment so as to develop outstanding, but also to enhance the quality of healthcare services through development of innovative basic and clinical research. It also aims to attract world-class faculty members, as well as exceptional medicine students, currently mainly from Cyprus and Greece, and in the future from the broader region and Europe. Since having welcomed the first students of medicine in 2013, the school counts today 117 students. In the past several years, UCY has experienced an unprecedented period of growth and success, performing successfully in global university rankings. UCY's groundbreaking work is a remarkable feat for the academic institution and the nation.

Concluding his address and on behalf of the government, the President expressed the State's gratitude toward the benefactor Mr. Shakolas for his invaluable contribution to the development of the UCY Medical School.

The UCY Rector, Prof. Constantinos Christofides gave also a word, thanking firstly the benefactor for the unlimited support UCY has been receiving from him since its foundation. As he said UCY is enormously grateful to Mr. Shakolas.

Additionally, Prof. Christofides thanked the Minister of Health for his support throughout the discussions taking place for the memorandum of understanding agreed between UCY and the Ministry of Health last year, but also for the establishment of collaboration between all health sector stakeholders involved in transforming the Nicosia General Hospital to a University Hospital. As he pointed out: *“This transformation is a common vision we all aspire and want to be fulfilled. Even at a time of great uncertainty in the global economy, the support of both our benefactors and the State demonstrates their faith in our University. In addition, the large number of high-caliber faculty members, who have been applying for the vacant positions announced in all specialties of medicine and want to join the dynamically growing UCY Medicine School, demonstrates also a strong vote of confidence given in UCY.”*

The Interim (Acting) Dean Prof. Nicholas Pavlidis underlined the School’s mission, that is twofold, (i) to become a centre of excellence in medical education and research, producing doctors capable of contributing at the highest level as clinicians, researchers, scholars and teachers, and, (ii) to raise the standards of health care in the region and enhance research in medicine by building on local strengths.

The medical students representative Andreas Mattheou stressed the importance of quality infrastructure in health education and research, as having quality infrastructure in medical schools is decisive for students to achieve the expected academic, research and practice results.

End of announcement