

Austin, Tx January 05, 2011

Dear Dr Stranjalis,

Entirely by chance not related to my professional interests, I am a retired engineer, I happened upon an article you have co-authored “A history of the department of neurosurgery at the Evangelismos hospital, Athens” published on line, Sept. 13, 2004 – Springer Verlag.

I am writing to you to indentify myself as a beneficiary of the competence of the department and Dr Vassilis Griponissiotis in particular.

At the time of this event I was ten years old. To the best of my recollection it was around the end of April or early May of 1953, a Saturday afternoon, when I fell from the 2nd story window of a friend’s house directly into the psistaria (thus, Saturday) of the tavern below. The result serious cranial trauma with loss of bone and some skin burns.

At the time my family lived at Elatia in the province of Locris where my father Nikos Chremos a physician had his practice. I recovered conscience lying on the examination bed of the Pharmacy where my father arrived shortly, having been told that “a ... boy” had been injured. Soon we were on our way to Livadia with one of the two barely roadworthy taxis of the village. There after a quick examination the surgeon of the clinic where we stopped contacted Evangelismos, I am sure a real task at the time, and arranged for a good car and driver who brought us to Athens. Dr Griponissiotis was alerted at a function he was attending. Soon after our arrival all was ready and I was taken into the operating room. I remained conscious but I do not know how long the operation lasted. After several difficult days and one particularly hard night my recovery advanced without major complications. I returned to Evangelismos several months later for plastic surgery when a piece of Tantalum (?) less than 4.0 cm in diameter was inserted under anesthesia this time.

I am now 67 years old and since then I have lived a fully active and engaged life physically and intellectually without any impairment I am aware off. I reside in Austin, Texas in the USA.

Your article brought into focus and made me appreciate, how the efforts and knowledge of all the surgeons you mention, resulted in a Department of Neurosurgery at Evangelismos with the overall organization and expertise to diagnose and more often than not cure and save lives. In that instance it was my own life.

My best wishes to all who today provide expert care to all who need it!

With best wishes to you for the still young new year,

Terry Chremos