



ESOT Congress 2023

The spirit of the olive branch

The myth is that in ancient times, two of the most prominent of the Olympian gods, Poseidon and Athena, were competing as to who will be the patron of the city that was dynamically evolving in the area from the gulf of Saronicos to the mountains of Attica. Poseidon offered to the people of the city power and domination at sea. He promised them strength that all other cities in Greece would fear. Athena offered them an olive branch, a simple and magnificent symbol of peace, prosperity, hospitality, culture, ideas and wisdom - Athena promised a city that all others would respect. The people most thoughtfully chose Athena and named their city after her. The centuries that followed proved how wise was that decision, the city of Athens being the eternal light of science, philosophy, art and democracy. It was also in Athens that Socrates, the founder of philosophy, defined as the ultimate expression and goal of the human mind the quest for new ideas via free dialogue.

Fast-forward many centuries, Athens is today a modern metropolis with a fascinating Greek and European identity. The times have changed but not the principles of Greek life. The Athenians and all Greeks are ready to offer you the warmest welcome, and the ESOT Congress 2023 will be in true Greek spirit as a great quest and celebration of ideas via a passionate and open dialogue.

This hallmark Congress also coincides with the massive national effort for the further advancement of the field of transplantation in Greece. We are truly grateful that the presence of esteemed colleagues and dear friends from all over the world will significantly enhance the great efforts of the Greek transplant community.

Join us in Athens and let us all learn, create and celebrate in the “Spirit of the Olive Branch”.

Vassilios Papalois

Honorary Congress Co-Chair