

# Journeys of science

By **Professor Marios Mavronicolas**

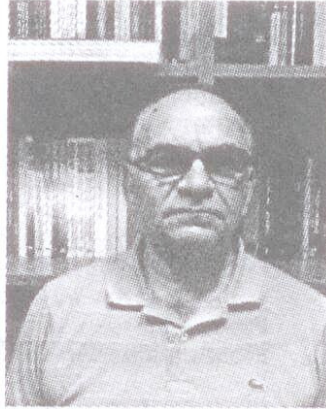
Science looks like a butterfly that is always pulled to fly by pansies with multicoloured velvets. It looks around to travel over all flowers and to wander around. The butterfly always flies in the same way, breezy and cheerful, towards her own target.

The prosperity of mankind, both material, social and spiritual, is to a very high extent due to progress in science. In turn, the progress is highly dependent on the constant, effortless and life-long work of the scientists that accomplish the greatest in their scientific fields.

One of the prime examples of scientists who achieved significant research accomplishments is Professor Dr Eleftherios Ph. Diamandis, the Division Head of Clinical Biochemistry at the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, University of Toronto, in Canada, in the last thirty years.

Professor Diamandis has a very broad spectrum of research activities, which ranges from the discovery, validation and implementation of cancer biomarkers for early diagnosis and prognosis of cancer via proteomic investigations, through mechanistic aspects of carcinogenesis and metastasis, to the study of neurodegeneration, including Alzheimer's disease.

The excellence of Pro-



essor Diamandis in Medical Sciences can be confirmed by his numerous awards, coming from many international organisations.

Among others, he received in 2010 the (chronologically first) Nemitsas Award from the Takis and Louki Nemitsas Foundation. Through the Nemitsas Award, Professor Diamandis was honored by the Foundation for his great contribution to medical science, but Cyprus as a whole was also honoured by him. Professor Diamandis is a member of the National Academy of Sciences in Canada, and also a corresponding member in the Academy of Athens.

Scientific excellence can never be built on the illusion of phantasmagoria. Neither is it related with those sojourning "horseflies" that weave fancy myths of scientific excellence to satisfy their own vain glory.

The case of Professor Diamandis makes a very strong antidote against whatsoever type (benign or not) of scientific narcissism.

On this coming Wednesday, June 15, we shall have the pleasant opportunity to watch a public lecture by Professor Diamandis at the University of Cyprus, where he will narrate on his journeys to science and medicine.

The lecture is co-organised by the University of Cyprus, the Takis and Louki Nemitsas Foundation, and the Cyprus Medical Association. The speaker already announced that, in his lecture, he will present a personal account of his 30-year experiences as a scientist and as a physician, as well as an immigrant. He promises to provide some insights into how scientists from Greece and Cyprus may develop successful careers in countries with exceptional opportunities.

Science looks like a boat that will give us a journey to the unknown. Sometimes it rolls over seas of peaceful serenity. Other times the boat encounters storm and calm. When the boat sails out to the open sea, we do not know which land it will get us to.

But the whole charm lies in the mystery... When the paddles are in strong arms, the shipowner at the helm will achieve great things and all will go well... Very well!

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