

Organized by the *International Journal of Oncology*,
Oncology Reports, *International Journal of Molecular Medicine*,
Molecular Medicine Reports, *Experimental and Therapeutic Medicine*,
Oncology Letters, *Molecular and Clinical Oncology*
and *Biomedical Reports*

Welcome to Greece

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Spandidos Publications, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Athens for the 22nd World Congress on Advances in Oncology and the 20th International Symposium on Molecular Medicine. This conference will bring together internationally recognized experts in the fields of oncology and molecular medicine to communicate the latest advances in these fields, and to encourage active collaborations between laboratories.

The past year has built on the success of previous years for Spandidos Publications as we continue to grow, with record numbers of papers published in our eight journals. In addition, the newly released Impact Factors (2017 Journal Citation Reports® Edition) revealed further increases for several of our journals, indicating that the papers we publish are continuing to be more highly read and cited.

The scientific program for 2017 comprises lectures, short oral presentations and poster presentations, the best of which will be recognized with Certificates of Achievement at our traditional, end of Congress Award Dinner to be held on Saturday the 7th of October. In addition, we have organized three workshops. The first, pre-congress workshop, entitled 'Next-Generation Sequencing – Library Construction and Quality Control', is co-organized with TATAA Biocenter, Sweden, and will take place on the 3rd and 4th of October. This workshop, which is the third in a series of annual pre-congress workshops, will focus on considerations for the NGS experiment design, and will provide an overview of the different sequencing platforms, quality control of samples, library preparation techniques and quantification of libraries for sequencing. In the second of the workshops, entitled '3rd Workshop on Paediatric Virology', which will take place on the 7th of October we will be honoured to have a lecture by the Nobel prize winner Professor Harald zur Hausen, who received the Nobel prize in 2008 for his discovery of human papilloma viruses causing cervical cancer. The third of the workshops, entitled 'Workshop on Inflammation and Diseases', will take place on the 6th and 7th of October.

In addition, while you are here in Athens, we hope that you will be able to explore some of the cultural and historic landmarks of Greece. This year, our Congress tours will include excursions to Mycenae-Nafplio-Epidaurus, Ancient Sparta and the Byzantine City of Mystras; furthermore, there is a choice of Athens city tours (including sightseeing at the Parthenon and the New Acropolis Museum, an Athens winery tour with wine tasting, and the story of the Marathon Race and the Olympic Stadium of 2004), and a one-day cruise to the beautiful Saronic Gulf islands of Hydra, Poros and Aegina. We hope that these tours will offer an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and make new acquaintances whilst exploring the magnificent attractions.

We thank you for your participation in the Congress and hope that you enjoy your time in Greece.

Demetrios A. Spandidos