

ΔΗΜΟΚΡΙΤΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΡΑΚΗΣ
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ΚΛΙΝΙΚΗ
ΠΛΑΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗΣ Κ' ΕΓΚΑΥΜΑΤΩΝ

Καθηγητής Νικόλαος Α. Παπαδόπουλος



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DEPARTMENT
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WPATH
2575 Northwest Parkway
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Alexandroupoli, 03/30/2017

Nomination for WPATH Outstanding Student Contribution Award 2017

Dear Sir and Madam,

I recently read your newsletter mail notifying your readers that you are accepting nominations for this year's WPATH Outstanding Student Contribution Award. My name is Nikolaos Papadopoulos and I am a Professor for Plastic Surgery at the Democritus University of Thrace in Alexandroupoli, Greece and at the Munich Technical University in Munich, Germany. In one of my research endeavors, I have dedicated myself to the evaluation of quality of life following reconstructive surgical procedures, particularly sex reassignment surgery of both male-to-female and female-to-male transgender patients.

Therefore, it is a great honor for me to take this letter as an opportunity to officially nominate one of my former medical and research students, Dr. Dmitry Zavlin, for the WPATH Outstanding Student Contribution Award. Dmitry attended the Medical School of the Munich Technical University from 2011 until December 2015 graduating not only with a German diploma but also successfully passing the all American USMLE exams and obtaining the ECFMG license. Later in 2016, he was hired in the United States to continue his research activities as a postdoctoral fellow at the plastic surgery department of the Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas until he begins his surgical residency training.

During his time here in Germany, he was part of my research group as a research student (German academic "Dr.med." degree - similar to Ph.D.). Dmitry conducted a prospective clinical trial evaluating the quality of life of 40 male-to-female transgender patients undergoing gender reassignment surgery using a novel operative method, the combined vaginoplasty technique introduced by Dr. Jürgen Schaff. Dmitry Zavlin was a very motivated and bright student who quickly grasped all major aspects of reassignment surgery and utilized his skills to reach his goals. His study results showed an increased quality of life in MTF transgender patients using validated questionnaires, low complication rates, and high aesthetic and functional/sexual satisfaction with the surgical result. I believe that his findings are groundbreaking in our scientific field of gender dysphoria where surgical studies are particularly limited by retrospective design and vague inconsistent methodology. His research is the first that employed such a prospective labor intensive study.

Our results were subsequently published or are being published in multiple international peer-reviewed journals and also presented at national/international conferences. Attached please find Dmitry Zavlin's



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latest C.V. with the relevant references highlighted in red. His contact information is included there as well. Attached is also a sample of our latest work – a manuscript accepted for publication in the largest journal of plastic surgery *Plastic Reconstructive Surgery*. It will be printed in the August 2017 issue.

In summary, I highly recommend Dr. Zavlin for the student award of your organization. He has devoted himself to transgender surgery during almost his entire medical career and will proceed to do so wherever his future will take him. I do appreciate your time and effort you spent with reading my letter and I am sending you my best regards.

If you have any questions regarding Dr. Dmitry Zavlin, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

Nikolaos A. Papadopoulos, M.D., Ph.D., FACS

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