

Newsletter 42

| June 2018 |

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Welcome note

Welcome to Remedica's latest newsletter.

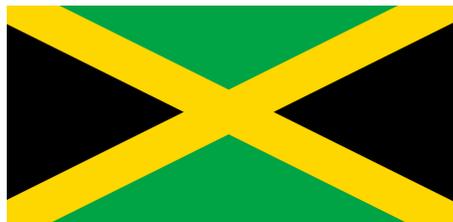
It feels as if summer has finally arrived and Remedica has many exciting activities to share with you. We are halfway through the year already and it has been an eventful period for Remedica! During the past trimester, the company has participated in an abundance of events, career fairs, workshops and conferences, such as the European Business Awards Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony, and the Workshop on the new industrial policies. Remedica has also organised many corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, namely the financial support of the "Let's Hippo" campaign of the Sophia Foundation for Children, and its annual blood donation. We are also delighted to share the news that Remedica's new product, Rezavir® (Darunavir) has received its first regulatory approval. Most importantly, this trimester Remedica was proud to receive the "National Winner" award, in the "international expansion" category, of the European Business Awards 2018! Coupled with the CEO Award granted by the Business Worldwide Magazine, it reaffirms the company's conviction that with hard work, courage and determination dreams are within reach and that no challenge is too big to deter Remedica from reaching its goal which is the provision of quality healthcare to patients throughout the world through high quality, safe and efficacious pharmaceutical products. We invite you to explore this month's newsletter so keep reading to find out more about all the company's exciting news!

We hope you enjoy Remedica's latest newsletter.

Charalambos Pattihis
Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Remedica Worldwide

T. Geddes Grant, Jamaica



Jamaica, a Caribbean island nation, has a lush topography of mountains, rainforests and reef-lined beaches and is known internationally for being the birthplace of reggae music. It is divided into three counties – Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey – which in turn are divided into 14 parishes. Kingston, the capital and commercial centre of Jamaica, is situated on the southeast coast of the island. Montego Bay, located on the north-west coast, is the island's second city.

Jamaica has a warm, tropical maritime climate. Rainfall peaks in May and October and is at its lowest levels in March and June: the island lies in the hurricane zone. It is extremely mountainous, with a central chain of mountains running east to west, forming a backbone through the middle of the island. Most of Jamaica's rivers flow to the north or to the south, from the mountainous interior toward the coast. Several rivers run underground, and the island is mostly covered with limestone.

Remedica's local representative in Jamaica is T. Geddes Grant. This local company commenced trading with Remedica in the 1990s and is the leading distributor of generic drugs in Jamaica, selling to all pharmacies and hospitals across the island. It is also a distributor of leading brands to over 3,000 supermarkets,

wholesalers and other resellers worldwide. In addition, it distributes agricultural and veterinary items, produced by some of the world's leading manufacturers, to a wide cross-section of the island's farming community. It also distributes a wide range of office products including office furniture, safes, vault doors, fire resistant storage systems, lockers, shelves and filing cabinets. For the pharmaceutical sector, it distributes branded and generic drugs along with other pharmaceutical products to over 400 pharmacies and hospitals across Jamaica fulfilling both prescription and over-the-counter needs. At the heart of their success is proficient customer service and delivery which stems from their desire to become an extension of the success of every pharmacy and pharmacist in Jamaica. The consumer side specialises in the marketing of personal care products for both adults and children to pharmacies, cosmetics stores, supermarkets, department stores and wholesalers.

The company's Vision

To be the leading distributor of world-class brands in Jamaica through deep strategic partnerships with their principals.

The company's Mission

To provide an environment which motivates their team to meet the requirements of their principals, whilst providing adequate returns to their investors.



The ABC of Pharmacy

Adverse Drug Reactions: the Reporting Process and Pharmacovigilance



Anyone who has been involved in the manufacture, distribution, prescribing and taking of medicinal products will be aware of the existence of the patient information leaflet (PIL) which is legally required to be inserted into the package with every licensed medicine. Most countries that regulate and register medicinal products and devices will have set up what is known as a national competent authority (NCA) which approves the PIL for each product that it has registered and monitors and assesses any Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reports that it receives for that product. If it is felt that the ADR (a response to a medicinal product which is noxious and unintended) is sufficiently important then the holder of the product license, more correctly known as the Marketing Authorisation (MA), will be instructed to include it in the PIL.

The major NCAs keep an electronic database of all ADRs which are considered to be sufficiently well authenticated to be added to the PIL: two of the largest systems are the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Adverse Event Reporting System

(FAERS) and the European Union (EU) EudraVigilance. Holders of MAs are required to report any adverse reactions with their products directly to the holders of the relevant database. Furthermore, in the EU, NCAs are obligated to report any adverse reaction cases received to the EudraVigilance database.

The FAERS has been in use since 1968, in which year 107 reports were received compared with 1,815,738 (of which 951,656 were accepted as being genuine) in 2017: this latter number represented an increase from 363,171 a decade earlier. The EudraVigilance database was not introduced until December 2001 so there is less historical data available. Nevertheless, for comparative purposes, the number of ADRs received rose from 250,000 to 1,250,000 in the ten-year period up to 2016. The increase in the number of reports received by both organisations has, therefore, increased almost exactly 5-fold over the last decade for which data is available and, although this may be too coincidental to be believed, it serves to indicate the degree to which activity has increased.

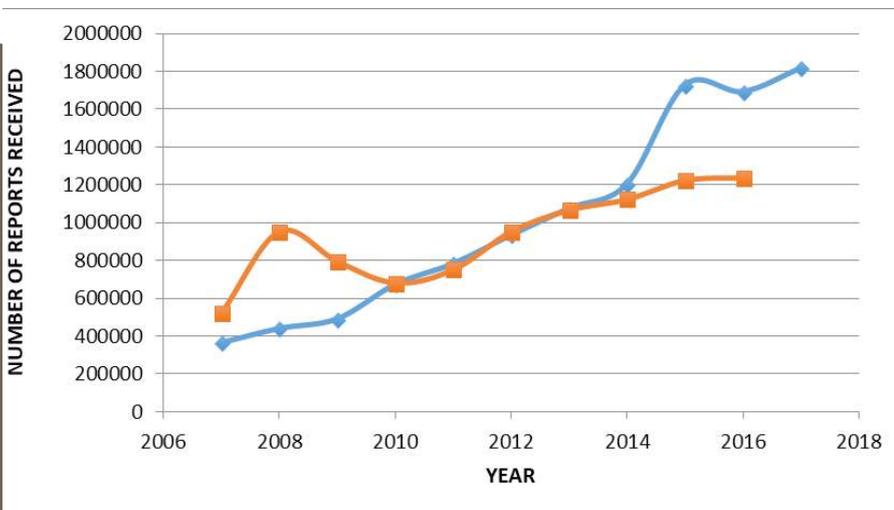


Figure 1. The total number of ADRs received by the FDA (blue) and the EU (orange) between 2002 and 2017.

which has become known as the 'Yellow Card' as part of the Medicines Act. The form was, and still is, a relatively simple document to complete although the range of products and the individuals who can send in reports have been expanded. Initially, only doctors and dentists could submit reports but coroners were added in 1969 and pharmacists in 1997. Nurses became part of the system in 2002 and in 2008 patient reporting was established following a pilot study in 2005 so now, there is no restriction on who can make a report. The current guidelines indicate that reports can be made for all medicines including vaccines, blood factors, immunoglobulins, herbal medicines and homeopathic products and all medical devices available on the UK market. From 2016, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has also been responsible for the collection of reports on safety concerns with e-cigarettes through this scheme even though the vast majority of such products do not have to have an MA. Examples of events that should be reported are incidents or problems with medical devices, side effects, medicines that are not of acceptable quality, lack of efficacy cases and any medical product suspected of being counterfeit or fake (in cases where side effects have occurred).

Once a report is received it will be reviewed and, if necessary, action will be taken to protect health by minimising risk and maximising benefit. The form is available online which is the way that most submissions are made nowadays and the MHRA has also produced an App that can be downloaded on a smartphone.

However, as Figure 1 indicates, in neither case has the rate of increase been smooth by any means. Quite obviously improvements in digital technology will have played a part in these increases but, whatever the reason, it has to be considered as substantial:

Hopefully, there will have been a concomitant improvement in drug safety due to additional warnings being added to the PIL, extra restrictions being placed on the use of a product, modifications made to the doses and, on rare occasions, the removal of products from the market.

In order to allow these databases to be compiled, a system had to be introduced to allow reports to be submitted. The UK was one of the first authorities to set up a scheme in 1964 when it created a form

As stated above, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) requires all of the Member States to collect data on any adverse reactions to licensed medicinal products or medical devices but although guidance is given as to what should be collected there is no standard form used in the EU. In order to assist in the process (and to avoid anarchy) the Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS), which is jointly funded by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has designed a suitable form and this is the one which has either been adopted or used in adapted form by most EU Member States and other countries throughout the world. In the majority of cases, the report forms are available as electronic documents on the appropriate websites and returns can be made by any member of the population.

All of the above systems and regulations form part of what has now become known as pharmacovigilance which has been defined by the WHO as 'the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug-related problem'. It extends beyond just drugs to include medication errors, lack of efficacy, substandard medicines, poisoning, drug-related mortality, drug abuse and interactions of drugs with foods and other chemicals. In order to gain a true picture of drug risks and benefits, in addition to monitoring the use of medicines, it is necessary to keep abreast of clinical studies, worldwide published literature, announcements by pharmaceutical companies and world regulatory authorities, and morbidity and mortality databases.

Obviously, a wide range of disciplines is involved in the collection and collation of all the data. However, a large amount of this work is required to be undertaken by the MA holder. Remedica employs 5 staff members who work full-time on its behalf in order to keep its medicines information up-to-date so that its products are effective and safe.

Figure 2. The CIOMS "Suspect Adverse Reaction Report Form".



Our Products

Rezavir[®] (Darunavir)



Recently, the medicinal product Rezavir[®] has received its first regulatory approval by the Pharmaceutical Services Department of the Ministry of Health of Cyprus. Rezavir[®] contains the active substance Darunavir and it is indicated for the treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1) infection.

Rezavir[®] is available as 75mg, 150mg, 300mg, 400mg, 600mg and 800mg film-coated tablets.

Health Matters

Honouring the World Blood Donor Day: 14th of June 2018



Blood connects us all

The World Blood Donor Day is an international campaign, aiming to encourage the donation of blood, a life-saving gift, and to raise awareness on the necessity to ensure the availability and safety of blood and blood products for patients in need across the globe.

Blood transfusion saves millions of lives every year. It can help those suffering from serious conditions to have a higher quality of life and to live for longer periods of time. Furthermore, a blood transfusion plays a life-saving role when it comes to complex surgical procedures, maternal care and natural disasters.

However, in many countries, the demand for blood is higher than its supply and it is very difficult for blood services to provide an adequate supply of blood which can only be assured through regular voluntary blood donations. The aim of the WHO is to meet all the countries' demands for blood through voluntary, non-remunerated, blood donations by 2020.

The focus of this year's campaign

This year's campaign focuses on blood donation as an act of solidarity. The aim of the campaign is to draw attention to the important principles of empathy, altruism, respect, and kindness, values on which the voluntary unpaid blood donation is based. The slogan of this year's campaign is: "Be there for someone else. Give blood. Share life", and its purpose is to create awareness on the role of voluntary donation as an act of showing that you care



and creating a united community. The campaign aims to motivate those who are already blood donors to continue giving blood and to encourage other healthy individuals to become donors, by putting stories of people who have been saved by donated blood in the spotlight. Some of the activities that have been organised to honour the day include events, blood donations, scientific meetings, and the publication of articles in scientific journals.

The objectives of this year's campaign

- to honour those who donate blood and to motivate healthy individuals who have never given blood to become regular blood donors
- to highlight the importance of blood donation for the society and the significance of a sufficient blood supply through voluntary donation
- to raise awareness on the necessity of blood donation all year round to maintain adequate blood supplies at the national level
- to draw attention to the importance of the community's participation in the rebuilding of the health system
- to promote the collaboration between different countries and to ensure the establishment of a global consensus on voluntary donation, while ensuring blood safety and availability

Host for the 2018 World Blood Donor Day events

This year, the World Blood Donor Day 2018 will be hosted in Greece on the 14th of June 2018, at the National Blood Donation Centre.

References

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day/2018/event/en/>

Corporate Social Responsibility: Remedica Cares

1) Let's Hippo: Financial Support to the Sophia Foundation for Children (photo 1)

We are delighted to inform you that, as part of Remedica's CSR programme as well as its continued philanthropic work, the company provided financial support to the Sophia Foundation for Children through the purchase of a hippopotamus sculpture. This initiative forms part of a project called "Let's Hippo" which belongs to the Foundation and aims to help children in need in third world countries. To further promote this cause, an event and a press conference took place at the Presidential Palace in Nicosia, on the 27th of June 2018, which was attended by Dr Michael Neoptolemu, Managing Director. Dr Neoptolemu was called upon to receive the hippopotamus sculpture adopted by the company. Following the completion of these events, an exhibition of all the hippos took place at the Mall of Cyprus.



1

2) Remedica Organises yet another Successful Blood Donation Camp (photo 2)

On the occasion of the World Blood Donor Day, (14th of June), Remedica organised a blood donation camp for its employees which took place on the 8th of June 2018. Remedica has, for many years, organised blood donations where it has encouraged all of its employees to participate. This activity was repeated again with the aim of boosting the blood bank supplies of the Limassol General Hospital. The blood camp was a great success with many employees donating blood to help those in need.



2

3) Remedica Financially Supports the Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week (photo 3)

On the occasion of the World Multiple Sclerosis Day, a press conference was held on the 30th of May 2018, at the Journalists' House, Nicosia. The event was attended by Mr Andreas Hadjipanayis, Marketing Manager and National Sales Manager, representing Remedica. The Cyprus Multiple Sclerosis Association, on the occasion of this day, which was established by the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation as the last Wednesday of May, organised a plethora of events between the 15th of May and the 3rd of June 2018. The aim of these events, apart from spreading the message of solidarity and underlining the need of providing support to people with multiple sclerosis, was to raise awareness on this disease, to inform the general public regarding the programs and services offered by the Association, as well as to provide them with the latest therapeutic news and clinical trials.



3

4) Remedica, a Sponsor for the Event "Beautiful Pregnant Women Beautiful Mothers Healthy Infants" (photo 4)

Within the framework of its CSR programme, Remedica was a sponsor for an event organised by the Men and Women Hairdressers Association in collaboration with the Midwives Association "Filotokos", entitled "Beautiful Pregnant Women Beautiful Mothers Healthy Infants". The event was held on the 10th of May 2018 at the CETI Locale, with the aim of improving the medical equipment of the Newborn Unit of the Limassol Hospital. The event was attended by Dr Michael Neoptolemu, Remedica's Managing Director. It was held under the auspices of the First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus, Mrs Andri Anastasiades.



4



5

5) Financial Support of the Pancyprian Fundraising event of the Cyprus Red Cross Society (photo 5)

An annual fundraising event was held by the Cyprus Red Cross on the 8th of May 2018 in order to raise money for the needs of its various programmes and missions in Cyprus and abroad. For yet another year, Remedica supported these efforts with financial aid. The financial contribution was donated by Dr Michael Neoptolemu, Managing Director of Remedica.



6

6) Educational Visit of Students of the University of Cyprus (UCY) to Remedica (photo 6)

Within the framework of the University's course on International Marketing, students from the UCY visited Remedica on the 25th of April, where they had the opportunity to learn from the company's Managing Director, Dr Michael Neoptolemu, and its Marketing Manager and National Sales Manager, Mr Andreas Hadjipanayis, about pharmaceutical marketing and how the pharmaceutical sector operates both on a global as well as a local level. Dr Neoptolemu welcomed the students and gave a presentation on Remedica's corporate strategy, explaining the company's business plans for this new era. After the presentation, the students had the chance to ask numerous questions regarding key aspects of Remedica's strategy.



7

7) Safety and Health at Work Week 2018 (photo 7)

Between the 23rd and the 29th of April 2018, Remedica held a Safety and Health at Work Week within the context of the International Labour Organization's (ILO's) campaign for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on the 28th of April 2018. During the Safety and Health at Work Week, Remedica's personnel, contractors and visitors were given the opportunity to watch audio-visual campaign material by the screening of videos and presentations. In addition, printed material posted on notification boards was updated every day and forwarded to as many employees as possible. An electronic message was also forwarded to all internal email accounts throughout the week in order to further encourage the active participation of personnel in tackling health and safety challenges in the work environment by which means it was hoped to improve welfare in the workplace.

8) Visit of “Prosvasi”, a Charity for People with Disabilities, to Remedica’s Premises (photo 8)

On the 22nd of March, the NGO Prosvasi – a charity for people with disabilities - visited Remedica’s premises where they met with Dr Michael Neoptolemos, Managing Director. During the visit, Dr Neoptolemos spoke about the important charity work that the company carries out and made a financial contribution to help fund the Association’s activities. Remedica recognises the importance of the work and the contribution of the association to society and reinforces it by supporting it financially and in other ways. Since its establishment, Remedica has always supported important social causes and it is committed to continuing this tradition.



8

Remedica People



Mr Andreas Vasiliou, Head of the Drug Safety Department

Mr Andreas Vasiliou is a pharmacist with a Master’s Degree in Health Policy and Planning. Recently, he received his Human Resource Management Certification at the City and Guilds of London Institute. As Head of the Drug Safety Department of Remedica, which he joined in 2010, he has eight years of experience in the field of Drug Safety (pharmacovigilance, scientific advisory service, falsified medicinal products, crisis management etc.). He is registered as a Qualified Person for Pharmacovigilance in more than 80 countries worldwide. Outside of the company, Mr Vasiliou is the Chairman of the Cyprus Association of Generic Manufacturers (PASYPAGEF) and the Vice-chairman of the Cyprus Organisation for the Verification of Medicines (KOEf). He has held more than 30 training sessions (within and outside the company) where his lectures revolved mainly around the topics of drug safety, epidemiology, the quality of medicinal products and pharmacology. Finally, Mr Vasiliou is an elected member of the Municipal Council of the city of Famagusta (occupied by the Turkish troops since 1974) and also, he is a member of city’s School Board.

Mr Thomas Thomsen appointed as the new CEO of Ascendis Health

We would like to inform you that Mr Thomas Thomsen has been appointed as the new CEO of Ascendis Health. He will succeed Dr Karsten Wellner who has been the CEO of Ascendis Health since the founding of the group in 2011. The chairman of Ascendis Health, Mr John Bester said: “The board believes it is the right time to hand over to new leadership, with extensive operational and management experience in the global consumer healthcare and pharmaceutical markets, to drive the future strategy of the group.” As a Danish national, Mr Thomsen has held senior roles at Johnson & Johnson Consumer (Managing Director of Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey and Nordic Region), Reckitt Benckiser (Senior Vice President Global Consumer Healthcare) and Novartis Consumer Healthcare (Head of Global Category). “Mr Thomsen and Dr Wellner will work together over the next four months to ensure a smooth transition. We are confident in Mr Thomsen’s ability to lead the next stage in the evolution of Ascendis Health and to continue the growth momentum created by Dr Wellner and the team,” added Mr Bester.



Remedica’s Senior Legal Officer in the “GC Powerlist”

We would like to congratulate our Senior Legal Officer, Mr Yiangos Yiangoullis, for having made it into the “GC Powerlist: Greece and Cyprus” which recognises the best and most influential and innovative in-house lawyers working in the region. The GC Powerlist is the latest publication from *The Legal 500*, turning its attention to the in-house function, and recognising those corporate counsels who are driving the legal business forward. The GC Powerlist team has canvassed opinions from law firm partners and in-house counsel across Greece and Cyprus, to identify corporate counsel that have been instrumental in changing or forming opinions within their company or industry, developing brilliant technical solutions to complex issues, creating innovative structures to ensure that the in-house function is driving the business forward, or providing a business working model that other corporate counsel should follow. Their team of experienced researchers assessed the nominations, speaking both to general counsel and nominating lawyers to finalise each list. Well done, we wish him all the best and every success for the future. Click on the link below for more information: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/8f314f1d-42d4-4250-be38-d90c27e8a67e> (page 44)



Remedica News

1) Remedica's CEO wins Illustrious Business Worldwide Magazine CEO Award (photo 1)

Mr Charalambos Pattihis, CEO of Remedica has received worldwide recognition in the 2018 Business Worldwide Magazine CEO Awards. The awards seek to identify and honour the most respected C-level executives across the globe and across a variety of sectors. Rather than focusing on companies, the awards celebrate the skills and attributes of the individuals at their helm, inspiring others to achieve similar successes. Mr Pattihis has won the accolade of Best CEO - Pharmaceutical Industry - Europe. More information is available on <https://www.remedica.eu/ceo-award-remedica/>



1

2) Remedica Attends the European Business Awards Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony (photo 2)

We are delighted to inform you that Remedica attended the European Business Awards Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony, which took place on the 23rd of May 2018 in Warsaw, after having been named as a 2018 'National Winner' in Europe's largest business competition and having joined the list of 15 leading European companies in the category "Germany Trade & Invest Award for International Expansion". Dr Michael Neoptolemos, Managing Director and Mr Andreas Hadjipanayis, Remedica Marketing Manager and National Sales Manager, attended this event on behalf of the company. The ceremony was one of the biggest business events of the year and the best companies in Europe and the world were gathered in the room, to recognise and celebrate their achievements, with the evening culminating in the announcement of the 2018 Winners. The event was both inspiring and fun-filled.



2

3) Second Annual Memorial Service of Mr Chris Pattichis, the late founder of Remedica (photo 3)

The second annual memorial service of Remedica's late founder, Mr Chris Pattichis was held on the 25th of March 2018. After a church service, many guests who came to honour his memory, gathered at his grave where a private memorial service was held by a priest followed by the traditional serving of "koliva" (boiled wheat used for the commemoration of the dead) and "prosforo" (holy bread). After that, Mrs Pattichis welcomed them to her house as a celebration of her husband's life and achievements.



3

4) Dr Michael Neoptolemos, Remedica's Managing Director, Featured in Gold Magazine (photo 4)

We are proud to share with you that Remedica's Managing Director, Dr Michael Neoptolemos, has been featured in an article in Gold Magazine entitled 'Grow, expand, diversify'. Dr Neoptolemos's insight and knowledge about the pharmaceutical industry was highlighted in this article, an extract of which is reproduced in the following passage: "You need experience in the academic field, public sector and industry in order to avoid having both a cognitive gap and an experience gap," he explains (...). The Managing Director's vision for Remedica is absolutely clear and he enthusiastically describes it in detail: "I want to create an empowering workplace that will attract, retain and develop talented people who generate creativity and innovation and, consequently, products that give us a competitive advantage."



4

5) Presence at the Career Fairs of the University of Cyprus (UCY) and of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) (photo 5)

Remedica participated in the Career Fair organised by the UCY on the 26th of April, at its premises and the one organised by CUT on the 19th of April 2018. These events were aimed at students, graduates and young people seeking employment and identifying career opportunities. Their purpose was to bring students and graduates together with companies and organisations in Cyprus and abroad and to help enhance their employability.



5

6) Participation in a Workshop on the New Industrial Policies (photo 6)

Remedica participated in a workshop organised by the Cyprus Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism in collaboration with the Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB) and the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on the 16th of April 2018, following a study conducted by the CCCI on new industrial policies. On behalf of the company, Dr Michael Neoptolemos, Managing Director, participated as a rapporteur in a discussion panel. The workshop provided a glimpse of the future for industries in Cyprus and it gave the opportunity to participants to express their views and concerns regarding their respective fields.



6

7) Participation in the 3rd Annual Conference on Chemistry in Education (photo 7)

We are pleased to inform you that Remedica took part in the 3rd Annual Conference on Chemistry in Education, on "the Interconnection of Chemistry with Education and Industry", held at the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT). The purpose of the conference was to present and discuss the role of chemistry in relation to two key pillars: those of industry and education. Dr Michael Neoptolemos, Managing Director of Remedica took part on behalf of the company.



7

A Glimpse of Cyprus: Music Tradition of Cyprus and its Provenance

Music has always been an indispensable part of the cultural identity of many countries in the world and in the case of Cyprus it has had and continues to have a very special and important place.

Cyprus is heavily influenced by the Hellenic culture and the Greek element is profoundly imprinted on its language, religion and culture. Despite the many conquerors that Cyprus has had throughout its history, namely the Persians, the Phoenicians, the Romans, the French, the Venetians and the Turks, it has managed to preserve its Hellenic roots and to keep its musical heritage intact throughout the centuries.

Cypriots rejected elements they considered foreign to the Greek musical culture and that would significantly affect the identity of its traditional music and musical instruments. More specifically, the "sazi" was set aside and the "tampouras" prevailed. Similarly, the "zournas" and the "toumperleki" were rejected in favour of the "pithkiavlin" and the "tsampoushian", which are still dominant today. A "pithkiavlin" is a flute that originally was mainly a pastoral instrument. A "tsampoushian" is a musical instrument in the shape of a wooden plate which is embedded with stretched leather: it was also used for transferring wheat grains.

Cypriot music is similar to the music of many Greek areas, such as Crete, the Dodecanese and Asia Minor. It is worth noting that the Cypriot musical tradition was transmitted orally, through singing or whistling, as well as via the social and religious ceremonies of Cypriot people.

Over the course of centuries, the Cypriot traditional melody needed a polyphonic instrument and therefore the lute, and after this, the solo violin appeared. Later, a combination of the two instruments (lute-violin), known as the "zygia", emerged and this was often played at weddings and many other events.

With the introduction of the "zygia", many Cypriot traditional songs imported foreign elements and drifted away from their local characteristics. The musicians, who earned their living through their musical performances, moved from village-to-village and from town-to-town, disseminating songs all over Cyprus. Additional instruments which were introduced were the "tampouras" and the "second lute". The Greek "santouri" was not very popular on the island so it did not enter the Cypriot musical tradition, but was played at feasts in big cities, mainly by refugees.

The first recorded reference to the Cypriot musical tradition appeared in Homer's work in which he described the "Aphrodisia" festivities, that is, the religious feasts held to honour the Goddess Aphrodite which revolved around singing competitions, among other activities. These festivities took place in Amathounta where they were attended by skilled dancers, singers and athletes.

Using the Cypriot dialect, the local musicians sang about pain, happiness, heroic deeds, expatriation and the hope of being reunited with Greece, which they considered their motherland. Their songs were very much influenced by the

Byzantine music which was introduced to Cyprus after Constantinople's capture by the Ottoman Empire since a large number of Byzantium's residents settled on the Island. Because of its geographical position, Cyprus was at the crossroads of the Eastern and the Western regions, and this is also evident in its music.

In the present day, the "Kataklysmos" festival has taken the place of the "Aphrodisia" and includes, among others, competitions for impromptu oral poetry duelling called "tsiattista".

Cyprus has nurtured many well-known artists who have become famous both in Cyprus and Greece. Music is an important part of the everyday life of the Cypriot people. The Island has a long musical tradition and its contribution to Greek contemporary music proves that it still has an active role to play in the musical course of that country.

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