

Interview with Mr. Dr. Georgios K. Matis, neurosurgeon, Democritus University of Thrace, Medical School, Alexandroupolis, Greece

Ruxandra Alexandru

Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest
Edgar Quinet, 5-7, Bucharest, Romania
ruxi89@yahoo.com

Doctor Georgios K. Matis, one of our journal reviewers, is a young Greek resident neurosurgeon with an enviable experience. He graduated high school in 1995 with an impressive academic score of 19.7/20, being the first among his classmates. For this reason he was awarded the “John and Vasileia Karagianni Award” from Municipality of Thessaloniki. In 2002 he graduated the Medical School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, where he achieved the score of 8.17/10. Later on, in March 2002 he was given the medical license. Moreover, he worked as a rural doctor in Arnaia, Greece, for one year. Then he attended 1.5 years of General Surgery as a resident: in the General Hospital of Poligiros, Greece, and in the University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis, Greece.

Dr. Matis served in the Greek army where he worked as a doctor in the military camp “VERSI” and as a teacher on health issues.

From March 2007 to November 2007 he was a resident in Neurosurgery in the 417 Military Hospital (NIMTS, Athens, Greece). From February 2008, he has continued his residency in Neurosurgery at the General Hospital of Thessaloniki, Greece, “G. Papanikolaou”. The expected date of residency completion is December 2011.

Furthermore, he teaches “Neurosurgery” and “General Surgery” to the 3rd, 4th, and 6th year medical students at the Medical School from Alexandroupolis.

He holds a PhD (Democritus University of Thrace, Medical School, Alexandroupolis, Greece). The title of his thesis is: “Correlation of GCS, CT, and APACHE-II Findings in Head Injured Patients”.

He is a reviewer for several academic journals like “BRAIN. Broad Research in Artificial Intelligence and Neuroscience”, “Molecules”, “International Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences”, “Recent Patents on Medical Imaging”, “Journal of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics”, in “Nursing2010” Journal and he is also an instructor in EKAB (National Center of Urgent Help), teaching “Traumatic Brain Injuries” course.

Also, Dr. Matis is a reviewer for the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of the Australian Government for evaluating research programs (2009 NHMRC Project Grants scheme). The evaluated protocol was: “Exploring the Role of Erythropoietin Therapy after Traumatic Brain Injury: from Bed to Bench-side” (ID: 606624). Moreover, he is a reviewer (Sentinel Reader) of the Centre for Evidence- Based Practice, School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada in the context of the system “McMaster Online Rating of Evidence (MORE) – Clinical Relevance Online Rating System” (Discipline Name: Chronic Pain). He passed the ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) exam at the American College of Surgeons (June 2004). He also holds a MSc in Health Services Management (Hellenic Open University, Patra, Greece) with a grade of 8.74/10. The title of his thesis was: “Satisfaction Survey of the Inpatients of the University General Hospital of Alexandroupolis”. In addition, he got specialized in “Financial Management and Informatics” (National and Kapodistriako University of Athens, Athens, Greece – e-learning).

Ruxandra Alexandru, BRAIN (RA): Doctor Georgios K. Matis, we would like to ask you several questions about your work and your free time as well. Would you accept it?

Dr. Georgios K. Matis: Sure.

RA: *Being a neurosurgeon, could you please tell us what the most risky surgical manoeuvre in neurosurgery is? How often is it used?*

GM: The clipping of aneurysms – several times/month if endovascular treatment is not indicated or not effective.

RA: *What are the most frequent diseases that need neurosurgical intervention?*

GM: Hydrocephalus after subarachnoid hemorrhage, epi- or sub- dural haematomas, intracerebral hematomas, lumbar spondylosis, vertebral disc herniation (cervical and lumbar segment).

RA: *What was the most difficult case that you confronted with? Could you please describe the way you managed to cope with it? What do you have to do as a physician in this case?*

GM: A ruptured brain aneurysm of basilar artery in a 14 year-old child which led to death. Unfortunately, this was a hopeless situation.

RA: *What is the newest invention for the treatment of the neurodegenerative disease?*

GM: The use of several peptides.

RA: *Considering the fact that you were involved with the clinical studies about the prevention and treatment of the Parkinson's disease, which one got the best results?*

GM: I am not involved in such trials as a researcher. However, as a reviewer I believe that this in an issue under examination.

RA: *What is the most difficult post operative recovery for the patients that undergo a brain surgical intervention?*

GM: To remove tracheostomy, the intensive physiotherapy programme.

RA: *When did you choose your profession?*

GM: At the age of 17.

RA: *What did you want to become when you were a child?*

GM: As odd as it might seem, nothing specific.

RA: *If you could go back in the past, what profession would you choose?*

GM: The same.

RA: *Concerning your profession, what are your regrets?*

GM: In Greece physicians are not appropriately trained as medical students. Too much theory and little practice.

RA: *Concerning your profession, what is your biggest satisfaction?*

GM: A pair of non-dilated pupils...

RA: *What do you usually do in your free time?*

GM: Read stories to my son, travel, write articles for medical journals.

RA: *Thank you.*

Interview conducted and condensed by Ruxandra Alexandru.