

The 80th Anniversary of the Greek Urologic Association

Introduction and Objective: The presentation of the foundation and historical course of the Greek Urologic Association (1931-2012), as well as its presence in the evolution of Urology and urological studies in Greece.

Materials and Methods: The review of the Archives of the Urologic Association, the study of the Athens University Archives and the relative references.

Results: During the 19th century the only medical association in Athens was the Medical Association, established in 1835, just after the Greek Independence and two years before the inauguration of the University of Athens. After the war adventures of Greece (1912-1922), the creation of sanitary legislation and new hospitals made easy for the medical community to organize their specialties into associations aiming to the evolution of each scientific branch. The pioneer was the Surgical Association (1927) followed by the Gynecological and the Ophthalmologic ones, while since 1930 a small team of urologists were discussing a Urologic Association. Nobody had officially obtained the specialty of urologist, as this title was initially administered in 1938, so all of them were surgeons who "specialized in urological diseases". The first meeting took place on March 30, 1931 and the first Professor of Urology in Athens University, Bartholomew Gizis, was elected as the first President of the Association. The activities of the Greek Urologic Association stopped because of the Second World War and the Civil War in Greece and were repeated in 1949, with the second President Spyridon Oeconomos, (who was voted by 32 members), also Professor of Urology at the University. During the 1950s the first Greek and the 10th International urological congress were organized, a medical journal was published (Greek Urological Review) and several urologic departments were established in the new and the already existing hospitals. The Greek Urologic Association continues its social and scientific role having more than 1000 members and celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Conclusions: The adventurous course of the Greek Urologic Association reflects the national problems but demonstrates the scientific struggles of the first urologists of the country.