

READER'S FORUM

## Athens-based meeting to discuss the paediatric virology crossroad in October 2017

Viral infections are common diseases, and they are well-described in the Ancient Greek *Hippocratic Corpus* (1), together with a limited spectrum of diagnostic and treatment options. However, over the past two decades, several exciting developments in the fields of clinical virology and molecular medicine have expanded our knowledge on the pathogenesis of viral infections in neonates and children (2,3). Since 2015, the workshop on paediatric virology has tried enthusiastically to explore these advances and to investigate recent challenges in the prevention strategies, molecular diagnostics, multimodality imaging and therapeutics of paediatric viral infections (2–5). The next workshop is entitled *Paediatric Virology: interaction between basic science and clinical practice* and it will deliver a wealth of new material from different sections of neonatal and paediatric viral infections. It will be held on 7 October 2017 as an official session of the 22nd World Congress on Advances in Oncology and the 20th International Symposium on Molecular Medicine. Our aim is to bring together virologists and paediatric health professionals and encourage them to work together as an international network to promote paediatric health (5).

This year we will welcome two of the world's most well-known experts on virology and paediatrics. The first is Professor Harald zur Hausen, Emeritus Professor of Virology at the University of Freiburg in Germany, who received the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of HPVs causing cervical cancer. The second is Professor Anne Greenough, Professor of Neonatology and Clinical Respiratory Physiology at King's College London, UK and Vice President of Science and Research at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. These eminent professors come from different scientific backgrounds – basic science versus clinical practice – and their aim will be to combine the diversity of their invaluable experience and offer us their state-of-the-art educational input. Their plenary lectures will focus on 'paediatric virology and oncology: virus persistence and the important first years of life', and on 'the impact of viral infections on the long term outcomes of prematurely born infants', respectively. During the workshop, paediatric trainees and young paediatricians will have the chance to discuss issues regarding viral infections in neonates and children with both scientists. This 'crossroad' meeting will take place in Athens, Greece, which has hosted new ideas, new sciences and new knowledge for more than 4000 years. Further details of this event can be found at: <https://www.spandidos-publications.com/>.

## References

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