



**Interview of Christos Lionis and Elena Petelos (University of Crete – UoC)  
by Tania Mantouvalou of DailyFarmaNews in Greece**

The integration of Primary Health Care (PHC) and Public Health, including the development and utilization of cross-border networks to effectively and efficiently tackle two areas which are paramount for patient safety and represent key priorities of the European Commission, i.e., AMR and Cancer, was highlighted. The contributions of WFPHA, iPAAC, ECPC, EPHA, EFPC and EUPHA IDC and EUPHA CHR from the WCPH2020 Roundtable on Cancer and AMR were briefly showcased.

Raising awareness on how AMR and Cancer are linked, having robust evidence and exploring these topics for various patients groups, as for example for the more susceptible immunosuppressed patients were discussed. Emphasis was given on the importance of having of Point-of-Care Testing (PoCT) in the establishment of systems of syndromic surveillance, with infrastructure which allows health data utilization in real-time for the timely analysis and guideline generation, as for example in the context of outbreak management, and with high relevance for COVID19 too. The role of PHC in behavioural change for healthcare professionals, vaccinations and good hygiene practices were other topics examined in the context of integrating public health priorities and deploying effective and efficient interventions through PHC, so as to overcome context-specific limitations.

Greece is topping the charts on antibiotic consumption and has one of the world's oldest populations, whilst the establishment of a sustainable PHC system and the integration of public health priorities remain largely unaddressed, despite decades of intense debate and attempted reforms. On a more positive note, a collaboration with WHO EURO was announced from the Ministry of Health on October 27, with a Joint Statement to highlight the commitment to strengthen collaboration on quality of care and patient safety, for the establishment of an integrated and functional PHC system.

The interview in the DailyFarmaNews can be found [here](#).

October 2020