

INVITATION

Two day symposium honoring Steve Lagakos

“Impact of Biostatistical Science - Advances in Research:

AIDS, Cancer, Environment”

Athens, 2 & 3 October 2010

I would like to invite you to a two-day symposium in honor of Professor **Steve Lagakos**, to be held on the first weekend of October, in Athens. Reflecting Steve's tremendous contributions, the Symposium is entitled “**Impact of Biostatistical Science - Advances in Research: AIDS, Cancer, Environment**”.

Many of you met **Steve** and know of his generosity, his talents and accomplishments. Following is a small description of his brilliant career as posted on the **Harvard** website:

*“**Steve** was an international leader in biostatistics and AIDS research and an intellectual leader in the **Harvard's School of Public Health (HSPH) Department of Biostatistics** where he served for many years as Chair. As Director of the Statistical and Data Analysis Center, now the **Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research**, **Steve** and his colleagues put **HSPH** at the forefront of the spectacular successes in HIV therapy. In the last decade **Steve** had also contributed to extending those benefits to people in developing countries who could not initially access antiretroviral drugs. **Professor Lagakos** had served on the **Scientific Advisory Committee** of the **American Foundation for AIDS Research** and as a participant in a **World Health Organization (WHO)** consultation on neuropsychiatric aspects of HIV infection. From 1982 to 1987, he was co-director of **WHO's Collaborating Center for Cancer Biostatistics Evaluation**. He worked on several committees and panels of the **National Academy of Sciences**. He also served as statistical consultant to the “**New England Journal of Medicine**” for more than a decade. He was a member of the **Institute of Medicine**, the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** and the **American Statistical Association**. **Steve** educated several*

generations of biostatistics students, and his many postdoctoral fellows were devoted to him as a kind and compassionate teacher and mentor. Steve was always generous with his time – both in statistical matters, and also as a citizen of Harvard, having served with good cheer and much wisdom on many committees and given sage advice to many” (from <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/2009-releases/> , <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostats/lagakos/>).

The symposium is organized by **Frontier Science Foundation – Hellas**, (**FSF-H**) and is addressed to scientists with interest in clinical trials --- especially Oncology and AIDS clinical trials as well as in environmental research in which **Steve** was a pioneer.

FSF-Hellas was founded in Athens in September 2007 as the newest member of **Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation (FSTRF)**, a non-profit research foundation established in the US in 1975 to advance the application of statistical science, practice and data management techniques in science, health care, and education. The **Foundation** is currently engaged in large-scale national and international clinical trials, which have direct impact upon the treatment of thousands of cancer and AIDS patients in institutions world-wide (*provision of support to clinical trials conducted by ECOG, BIG, IBCSG; ACTG*). During the past years, it has been involved in innumerable research efforts in both the private and public sectors.

Steve was a co-founding member of **FSTRF**, a great supporter and initiator of the foundation of **FSF-Hellas** where he served as a BoD member until his unexpected death. A second generation American of Greek origins, with family living in Mani and Athens, he had the vision of making Greece an educational center for young Biostatisticians and Clinical Trialists, through his collaboration with Postgraduate Studies Programs where he served as a visiting instructor for many years and of course through the foundation of **FSF-Hellas**. In 2006, **Steve** was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Athens.

The program of the Symposium will cover some of the most challenging subjects of Biostatistical Science. Lectures will be given on original contributions in the field, by

Harvard University Professors, internationally acclaimed Scientists and close partners of **Steve**.

Details of the exact venue of the symposium as well as the final program will be available in the near future through e-mail and our website (www.frontier-science.gr).

Hope you can join us in honoring Steve by celebrating Biostatistical Science,

Urania Dafni

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