

## **MBC NEWS**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Hellenic Wound Healing Conference**

MBC President, Prof. Bishara Atiyeh, was invited to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Hellenic Wound Healing Conference organized on Sept 12-13, 2019 in Athens by Prof. Dimosthenis Tsoutsos and Prof. Ourania Castana of the Hellenic Society of Wound Healing and Chronic Ulcers. Other invited guests were Prof. Luc Teot and Prof. Sylvie Meaume from France and Prof. Franco Bassetto from Italy.

Prof. Atiyeh made a presentation entitled “You can be prepared for disaster: Burns Fires and other catastrophes” during a session dedicated to burns and Fire Disasters. The conference was the occasion for the Greek society to confirm its commitment to MBC by adopting the “Annals of Burns and Fire Disasters” as its official publication. Several presentations made during this conference will be submitted to the journal for publication.



**Picture 1:** Bishara Atiyeh and Ourania Castana



**Picture 2 from left:** Panagis Georgios, Dimosthenis Tsoutsos, Jenny Kyriopoulos, Bishara Atiyeh, Ourania Castana and Georgia Koulermou

By invitation from Prof. Juan Pedro Barret, EBA President, and Prof. Jyrki Vuola, 18th EBA Congress President, a special MBC session was organized in Helsinki during the 18th EBA congress under the heading of “Bridging the Gap”.

The session was held in the main plenary conference hall and was opened by Prof. Bishara Atiyeh, MBC President, who made a 20 minutes presentation about the “Unmet Needs of Burn Care in LMICs”. He was followed by Prof. Barret by a presentation about “The Burn of Burns: A Moral Imperative”. Other speakers in the session were Professors Clemens Schiestl from Switzerland, Lior Rosenberg from Israel, I. Minic from Italy, Dan Enescu from Romania, and Albin Stritar from Slovenia.

MBC participation in this congress was the occasion to renew ties between our 2 organizations and to discuss future plans for collaboration.



B. Atiyeh with JP Barret



From left: B. Atiyeh, S. Wolf (editor-in-chief Burns) and his wife, JP Barret, J. Latrjet, L. Juhasz



## THE TRAIN OF MY LIFE

Michel Costagliola 21/07/19

**In the manner of Jean d’Ormesson, with whom I am in agreement on most points, I want to make it clear nevertheless that I am not one who engages in blind forgiveness:**

*\* I believe that I possess to the highest degree the sense of affection and friendship; towards those that I hold in esteem, and who one day got into my train carriage, I have always been attentive, fully committed, and did everything I could, when it was in my power, to help them further the plans they had in mind. The majority have been grateful. Some, however, sometimes very close to me in my professional life, were very soon forgetful: they had succeeded entirely by their own efforts (if one day they read these lines, they will recognize themselves); at other times, this occurred in relationships of friendship or affection (tu quoque mi fili); I then asked them (him or her), to change carriages and the door closed behind them, any reconciliation becoming uncertain, if not impossible; I have always forgiven a mistake, but never a betrayal.*

*\* At several stations, faithful animals (dog or cat) came to share my journey for a while; when the time came for them to leave the train for ever, each time I shed tears, because with them, I had never experienced either desertion or disappointment.*

*\* I never knew my grand-parents, migrants who came to Oran from Spain and Italy. For 30 years, or about one-third of my existence, my train was Algerian; I got on the train beside my parents and grandparents, born in that country which they considered as their homeland, and beside my uncles and aunts. An only child, I was “the light of their life”, as they said; they were of modest origin, and passed on to me a taste for effort, rigour and hard work in order to succeed, and I owe to them the success of my career: they will be delighted*

*and astonished. Growing older, and admitting that I have worked hard, I think of this more and more often, and I see them again in my mind’s eye, their simplicity, the happiness of everyday life “back there”. From this arises the feeling of Algerianity which is an integral and constant part of me, drawing together the city of my childhood, Oran, the town where I spent my youth, Sidi-Bel-Abbes together with my close friends from high school, and the city where I was a student, Algiers.*

*\* When the train took the junction for Toulouse, my father and my mother joined me and so, side by side, we continued our journey; I much regret that I did not take the time to talk with them more often about their story and their memories.*

*\* My children (our children), and here I must thank their mother; my wife (even if it was not always a long calm river), each in turn joined the same convoy with my parents, whom they cherished dearly; I guided their choice of profession; they filled me with joy and happiness, and later were attentive to the progressive signs of ageing and loss of independence; I fear that, suffering from misplaced reserve, I have not made it clear enough to them how much I loved them!!*



## **THE TRAIN OF MY LIFE**

*Jean d'Ormesson(1925-2017)*

*“At birth, we get on the train and we meet our parents.*

*And we believe they will always travel with us.*

*Yet at some station, our parents will get off the train, leaving us alone to continue the journey...*

*As time passes, others get on the train.*

*And they will be important: our siblings, our friends, our children, even the love of our life.*

*Many will resign (even possibly the love of our life), and leave a greater or lesser emptiness.*

*Others will be so discreet that we will not realize they have left their seats.*

*This journey by train will be full of joys, sorrows, expectations, greetings, goodbyes and farewells.*

*Success is to have good relations with all passengers provided we give the best of ourselves.*

*We do not know at which station we will leave, so let's live happily, love and forgive.*

*It is important to do so because when we get off the train, we must leave only beautiful memories to those who will continue their journey.*

*Let's be happy with what we have and thank heaven for this fantastic journey.*

*Also, thank you for being a passenger on my train.*

*And if I have to leave the train at the next station, I'm glad I've come some of the way with you.*

*I want to tell everyone who reads this text that I thank you for being in my life and travelling on my train.”*