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REFERENCE LETTER FOR BRIGADIER GENERAL (ret'd) GALATAS IOANNIS, MD

It is my sincere pleasure to have the opportunity of writing a letter of recommendation for Brigadier General (ret'd) Ioannis Galatas.

Throughout my career in various positions in the academic sector, for example at the University of Athens, Mayo Medical School, University of Minnesota, Case Western Reserve University, Cyprus International Institute for the Environment and Public Health in association with Harvard School of Public Health, I have worked alongside many top scientists and health professionals at various levels. Moreover as coordinator of many European projects, I have collaborated with many experts from all E.U. member states. It is with no reservation to say that General Ioannis Galatas is among the best colleagues I have worked with and is rated very high in my appreciation.

This letter reflects my experience from working with General Galatas from 2005 to 2008, during the European Public Health Project "ETHREAT- European Training for Health Professionals on Rapid Response to Health Threats". ETHREAT aimed to develop an educational package for health professionals specifically targeting new public health threats. I was aware of Brigadier Galatas' excellent work even before our collaboration, through his reputation on CBRNE issues following the 2004 Olympic Games. General Galatas is a medical/hospital CBRNE planner with hands-on experience from the 2004 Olympic Games and editor-in-chief of the CBRNE-Terrorism Newsletter. He has always been considered an expert on CBRNE and counter-terrorism operations with his overall work and international recognition proving his reputation.

Brigadier General (ret'd) Galatas has built a three-tier career. He is a specialized military physician (specialty: Allergy & Clinical Immunology) with long hospital experience, a CBRNE planner and instructor with specialization in "hospital preparedness and a senior asymmetric threats analyst with working experience at the Military Intelligence Service of Greek Armed Forces. He is perhaps the only expert we currently have in Greece bearing such a complex background and his willingness

to share knowledge and assist others (experts and national structures) is greatly appreciated and recognized nationwide.

Practically he is the pioneer in hospital CBRNE defense in Greece. Under his leadership, the Olympic Hospital CBRN Response Unit was the only hospital-based specialized unit field deployed for the Olympic Games. Also his close operational collaboration with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) brought new insights on how to take advantage at national level of the extensive resources provided via "Article X" of the Organization (training, equipments, logistic support etc).

General Galatas was, also, a valuable member of the scientific team of the ETHREAT Project. His expertise significantly contributed to the development of the educational package containing the knowledge and training material necessary to empower European health professionals, including armed forces health personnel, to rapidly recognize clinically and adequately respond to new public health threats, like attacks with biological, chemical and radiological agents. His actions were highly recommended by members of OPCW participating at the international conference held in Athens for the purposes of the ETHREAT Project. Moreover, he is, also, one of the authors of the main product of the Project (Manual: "How to respond to radiological, biological and chemical threats – A guide for European front-line health professional" – 2009).

His contribution to the ETHREAT Project and hands-on experience gained from the Athens' Olympic Games had a great influence in our way of thinking on crucial issues such as mass decontamination and CBRN management of victims following a terrorist attack during mega events. His expertise provided us with new insights on medical CBRN operations that might prove valuable if such an incident ever takes place in Greece.

At the more personal level, General Galatas has an extremely pleasant and cooperative personality which motivates his co-workers and promotes team work.

Being certain that even in the US there are not many experts with General Galatas' background, experience and qualifications all in one package, I am absolutely confident that he will be an asset and a valued member to your team. I strongly believe that the US working environment would be ideal for him to materialize his thoughts and ambitions and generate solutions that would be highly beneficial to the United States. Especially in the field of "hospital preparedness" he is expected to make the difference by applying his simple (but no simplistic) way of operational thinking, filling existing gaps and providing a fresh insight based on his European background and experience.

Therefore I strongly recommend considering his application in a positive way and taking advantage of his passion and dedication to the common cause – the protection of the people and the homeland.

Needless to say that, I would most happily provide any further assistance deemed necessary in support of General Galatas' application.

Sincerely yours,



Athena Linos, MD, MPH
Professor
Medical School, University of Athens