



Lausanne-Switzerland, February 22nd 2024

To :
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (N.K.U.A.)
Medical School
Rector
Professor **Gerasimos Siasos** <rector@uoa.gr>, <gsiasos@med.uoa.gr>
President of the Board
Professor **Nikolaos Arcadopoulos** <chair@med.uoa.gr>
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Hellenic Society of Adolescent Medicine (H.S.A.M.)
info@youth-health.gr

Dear Sirs ,

Dear Board Members of H.S.A.M.,

I had the honor of holding the first academic position on the field of Adolescent Medicine in Europe and have been collaborating with societies, academics and health professionals in your country for the past 20 years, focusing on the development of the field. of ***Adolescent Medicine/Health***.

At present, I have been asked from the Board of the Hellenic Society of Adolescent Medicine to refer to an historical review of the development of the field internationally and give a description and main domains of this medical specialty.

Adolescent medicine was created as a field in the 1960s by J. Gallagher in Boston (Harvard) and immediately raised a lot of interest among the medical community and beyond. Since then, adolescent medicine has been established as an official specialty in several regions of the world, including Australia, North and South America. It is a pity that Europe has not yet established this field of health care as a specialty on its own, however there are countries (Sweden, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Greece and Great Britain) that have developed services and academic positions on this area of expertise and advocate for the improvement of the situation.

As an example of progress, the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) has recently created a very active *Committee on Adolescent Medicine and Health*. Indeed, adolescent medicine is considered as a specific area of health care and in the last two decades, many papers have reviewed the objectives and content of the specialty and how to teach it . As mentioned in a recent publications, adolescents deserve a health care system that allows them to have a “*doctor of their own*,” using the tenets that led to the establishment of the field.

It is very crucial for the development of the field to describe the main domains of training and academic activity and to highlight its importance for modern youth.



Due to modern challenges, Adolescent Medicine is rising as a specialty that can provide the basis for quality of life and well-being - a major focus of W.H.O. for young people.

Adolescent Medicine specialty has a strong and mandatory component of psychological, developmental and social practice and thus Adolescent Medicine physicians must have documented training and education on all the above.

I am at your disposal for any further information needed

With best regards,

P- A N S

Prof. Hon Pierre-André Michaud, University of Lausanne
Past President, UEMS multidisciplinary Committee for adolescent medicine & health
Independent consultant in school & adolescent health and in medical education
Switzerland