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May 27-29, 2026 - Island of KOS, Greece

#	Dr. Nick Syristatidis, MD	
Title:	Medical Biopathologist, retired Colonel (Medical Corps) of the Hellenic Army	
email:	n.syris@hotmail.com	•
Presentation title:	Microbial "Co-habitation" in the Built Environment: Challenges and Impact on Human Health	
<p>As we spend approximately 90% of our lives indoors, the built environment has emerged as a complex microbial ecosystem with a profound impact on public health. From the perspective of Medical Biopathology, this presentation explores the dynamic interaction between occupants and the microorganisms inhabiting our physical structures.</p> <p>We will analyze how building materials—from non-porous surfaces to moisture-trapping textiles—dictate the 'microbial footprint' and facilitate the formation of resilient biofilms. A critical part of the discussion will be the clinical differentiation between Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) and Building-Related Illness (BRI). While SBS involves non-specific symptoms related to indoor air quality, BRI represents a formal transition to pathology, involving laboratory-confirmed infections from pathogens such as Legionella pneumophila, Staphylococcus aureus, and opportunistic fungi like Aspergillus.</p> <p>The session will further examine proactive mitigation strategies, including the integration of photocatalytic surfaces and antimicrobial coatings, as essential tools for modern infection control. Finally, we will connect these contemporary challenges to the foundational observations of Hippocrates in 'On Airs, Waters, and Places'. By bridging 21st-century building diagnostics with Hippocratic principles, we aim to redefine our approach to healthy living spaces. This presentation provides medical professionals with the insights needed to recognize and address the invisible microbial challenges of the modern built environment.</p>		
Short CV:		
<p>Nick Syristatidis is a Medical Biopathologist and a retired Colonel (Medical Corps) of the Hellenic Army. He is a graduate of the Military Academy of Corps Officers (SSAS) and the Faculty of Medicine at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.</p> <p>Throughout his career, he completed his residency in Medical Biopathology / Laboratory Diagnostics at "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital of Athens, "G. Papanikolaou" General Hospital, and "Agios Pavlos" General Hospital of Thessaloniki. He has served as Director of the Hematology, Virology, and Hemodynamics Laboratories at the 401 General Military Hospital of Athens, and as a Consultant at the Microbiology Laboratory of the 424 General Military Hospital of Thessaloniki.</p> <p>In addition to his clinical expertise, he has held key leadership positions, including staff assignments at the Hellenic National Defense General Staff (HNDGS) and as Director of the Medical Directorate of the Base Support Command. He concluded his military service at the School of Health Applications (SEY), where he served as an instructor, Director of the 4th Staff Office, and notably as the Director of Studies and Deputy Director of the School. His work has focused primarily on medical force generation, NATO medical training and military personnel training.</p>		