

# Rangos Spearheads Greek-U.S. Educational Collaboration

Johns Hopkins Medical School Launches Collaboration with University of Patras; Inaugurates State of the Art Research Building after \$10 million Gift from Pittsburgh Philanthropist

The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has established a formal educational agreement with the University of Patras, the third largest university in Greece, to collaborate on research and on student and faculty exchanges.

The two schools officially began their new collaboration on April 11, 2008, when representatives from the Greek university visited Johns Hopkins to sign the agreement, championed by leading Greek American businessman and philanthropist from Pittsburgh, John G. Rangos, Sr., a member of the Johns Hopkins Medicine Board of Visitors and a longtime benefactor of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Hopkins to share new ideas with an outstanding institution abroad," says Myron L. Weisfeldt, M.D., director of the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins, who facilitated and developed the areas of collaboration. "We're expecting a fruitful relationship for Hopkins as well as the University of Patras."

The delegation from the University of Patras was led by Dimitrios Dougenis, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs and Personnel and professor of cardiothoracic surgery in the University's Department of Medicine.

The agreement between the two schools specifies six objectives comprised of an exchange of faculty, students and staff; brief visits of teaching, scientific and research staff related to specific studies and lectures; development of undergraduate and postgraduate student training; administrative staff exchanges geared to evaluation and improvement of curriculum; initiation of joint research programs in areas of mutual interest; and cooperation in cultural and athletic events.

The visiting representatives from the University of Patras signed the collaborative agreement at the dedication of the



Photo by Bob Stockfield for Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

John G. Rangos, Sr. Building, which was named after the Pittsburgh philanthropist following a \$10 million gift to the Baltimore, Maryland school.

University labs and offices will occupy 100,000 square feet in the Rangos Building. "This will be a unique building," said Myron L. Weisfeldt, M.D., director of the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins, which also will have a presence in the Rangos Building.

"In it, the best basic scientists, disease-oriented basic researchers from my department and industry scientists will all be striving together to improve human health. The single building will unquestionably enhance communication and create a unique community that does not exist to my knowledge in any other academic biotech park."

The John G. Rangos, Sr. Building will anchor the Science and Technology Park at Johns Hopkins, which is part of an

80-acre urban redevelopment just north of the Hopkins medical campus. Rangos' philanthropic organization, the John G. Rangos Sr. Family Charitable Foundation, funded its construction.

John G. Rangos Sr., 76, of Pittsburgh, is the founder and former CEO of Chambers Development Inc., an environmental and waste management company. He is known for years of visionary philanthropic activity and civic involvement, with tens of millions of dollars in gifts to various educational, medical, cultural and religious institutions nationwide. In addition to heading the Rangos Family Foundation, he is a trustee of the Leukemia Society, the Pittsburgh Opera, Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, the Carnegie Science Center and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. He has previously funded an endowed chair in the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins.