

## Press Release

Farewell event in honor of Dr. Josef Puchta, Former Director of the German Center for Cancer Research (DKFZ) & Member of the International Scientific Committee of the Athens Comprehensive Cancer Center (ACCC), NHRF

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On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, in Heidelberg, Germany, a farewell symposium was held in honor of **Dr. Josef Puchta**, the Former Director of the **German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)**. Dr. Josef Puchta reached the legal retirement, after more than 23 years of crucial contribution to the Center's management, which has been evolved to one of the largest and most innovative organizations in the world thanks to Dr. Puchta.

Dr. Josef Puchta was a founding member of the International Scientific Committee of the **Athens Comprehensive Cancer Center (ACCC)**, a major initiative of the **NHRF** in collaboration with the DKFZ for the personalized and holistic treatment of cancer in Greece.

**Ursula Weyrich** who succeeds Dr. Josef Puchta has long experience in managing highly complex and international organizations. Ursula Weyrich, among others, is co-founder of the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, a leading bioscience organization.

Dr. Puchta, in his farewell speech, emphasized: *"I have known Ursula Weyrich for many years as an excellent and highly esteemed colleague and I am certain that she will help develop DKFZ. After more than 23 extremely interesting and challenging years, this certainty makes it easier for me to take my leave. I wish my successor every success in her new tasks."*

The **NHRF** Director & Chairman of the Board and ACCC's Administrative Director, **Dr. Vasilis Gregoriou**, attended the event and said during his speech: *"A vision of years for the National Hellenic Research Foundation has taken shape in Greece, thanks to the full support and special enthusiasm of Dr. Josef Puchta. I am referring to the **Athens Comprehensive Cancer Center (ACCC)** whose core is the interdisciplinary approach to the holistic cancer treatment. I'm sure that Dr. Puchta will remain a valuable consultant in any future development step of ACCC."*



Dr. Vasilis Gregoriou presented an honorable plaque to Dr. Puchta on behalf of the National Hellenic Research Foundation for his contribution to the establishment of the **Athens Comprehensive Cancer Center (ACCC)**.



Information on the two partner research centers:

The **German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)** has more than 3,000 staff and it is the largest biomedical organization in Germany. At DKFZ, more than 1,300 scientists are researching how cancer develops, identifying the aggravating factors, and trying to find new strategies that will prevent the development of cancer in humans. They are developing new approaches to make tumor diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients more accurate. The DKFZ information service provides individualized answers to all cancer-related questions for patients, the general public, and health professionals.

**See more at the official website: [www.dkfz.de](http://www.dkfz.de)**

The **Athens Comprehensive Cancer Center (ACCC)** was established in 2017 in partnership with the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Germany, as well as the University of Athens and selected public clinical hospitals. The main aim of the Center is to strengthen interdisciplinary cancer research and, in particular, to improve the lives of people suffering from this multi-factor and heterogeneous disease. Researchers from the Athens Center have already developed new diagnostic and prognostic tests, analyzing and utilizing response predictions in individualized therapies and also they are working on the development of new chemical drugs. ACCC is an initiative of the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) with a vision of diagnosing and treating patients in Athens and gradually across Greece.

**See more at the official website: [www.accc.gr](http://www.accc.gr)**