



SURGEONS AS GOOD MUSICIANS, OR MUSICIANS AS GOOD SURGEONS?

Savas C. Hiridis

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Dr S.C.Hiridis was born in Athens, Greece. He studied medicine in English at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic for 6 years. He worked as a surgical resident in Children's Hospital "P.A.Kyriakou", in General State Hospital "G.Gennimatas" and in General State Hospital "Sotiria" and received extensive training in the whole spectrum of classic "Open" General

Surgery, Emergency and Trauma Surgery, Thoracic Surgery and Basic Laparoscopic Surgery.

His interest in Robotic Surgery found a strong motivation in 2006, in the personality and activity of Dr.K.M.Konstantinidis, Chief of Surgery in Athens Medical Center, one of the most prominent representatives of Laparoscopic Surgery worldwide. From January 2007, Dr.Hiridis actively participated in the First Robotic Surgical Program in the country, while at the same time he completed his training in Advanced Laparoscopy, Robotic Surgery and Bariatric Surgery in centers of excellence around the world (Strasbourg, Grosseto, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Buenos Aires). In addition, for two years he attended the postgraduate program on Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery in Athens Medical School, Kapodistrian University of Athens and received the title "Master of Science" (MSc) in 2010. He is a candidate for PhD in the end of year 2015 with completion of his research in Metabolic Surgery (surgical correction of diabetes mellitus type II) in the experimental lab with porcine models. He has published in international journals and has contributed as an author in numerous medical books. He attends most of the large international surgical meetings and occasionally participates as an invited speaker in Europe (Seville, Geneve, Verne, Prague, Stocholm), USA (Quebec, Chicago, San Diego) and Asia (Beijing). He is a fellow of American College of Surgeons (ACS), member of European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES), SRS (previously Minimally

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Invasive Robotic Association), International Federation of Obesity and Metabolic Surgery (IFSO), and Hellenic Surgical Society (HSC). In December 2009 he was voted General Secretary of Hellenic Scientific Society of Robotic Surgery and he was re-elected in 2013. In May 2011 he participated in the organization of the 6th International Congress of Robotic Surgery (MIRA) as a Co-Chairman of the Scientific Program of MIRA. Recently he was elected Executive Secretary of SouthEastern European Robotic Surgery Society (SEERSS) and actively participated in the organizing committee of its meetings. Today he works as a General Surgeon in Athens Medical Center and performs Laparoscopic and Robotic operations from all the spectrum of General Surgery. His interests focus in research on future surgical technology, microrobotics, 3D bioprinting, and Intraoperative Navigation Systems (Augmented Reality Robotic Surgery).

Currently, he lives in Athens, near the hospital with his lovely wife Kalliopi Kouloufakou-Gratsia, who is resident in pediatrics. They have two kids Konstantinos and Michalis. After surgery, Dr.Hiridis enjoys relaxing by his Yamaha C1 Grand Piano by improvising, composing and trying new tunes.

ME, MY SURGICAL ROBOT and MY PIANO

Savas has loved music from his early childhood. He was raised inside a music-fun environment. His father Konstantinos and brother Petros both gynecologists, with their huge collection of LPs and CDs had always music playing in the house, preferably classical, popular Italian, French and Greek music. His mother Varvara had a classical knowledge of music and played Chopin, Liszt and Bizet in the piano almost every evening. Savas learned to play the violin in Athens School of Music and when he was 10 years old he started composing at the old piano of

his mother adding lyrics to them and singing with his sister Marianthi. Since then, the self-learned pianist created his own versions of well-known Greek songs from Manos Hadjidakis, Stavros Xarchakos, Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Loizos and Vassilis Tsitsanis. Adventures during his teenager years flooded him with ideas, which gave birth to his personal music style which is not affected by pre-existing prototypes of others; it was purely based on his listenings only.

As a high-school student he wrote music for theatrical plays. His ode to Lord Byron was a great success. His love for piano followed him in Prague during his medical studies. His 6-year residence in the capital of central European culture really gave a boost to his music and poetry. In an effort to return to classical education, he attended a piano class after university and was tutored by the Czech pianist Petr Malinek. A medical professor of Anatomy, Dr.Cech –also a musician- showed interest in Savas music as well. Same happened with many of his colleagues who helped him to find a piano to practice in Prague, and also found him a part-time job as a pianist in a Greek restaurant in Karlovo Namesti. In Prague Savas was strongly influenced by the local operas and local performances of Sergel Rachmaninov's works. As a medical student he also showed interest in guitar and his first guitar followed him everywhere he went at the time.

His music notes contain more than 1000 pieces and are mainly recordings. Many of his songs have Greek as well as English lyrics and he has written music for famous Greek poems. In 2005 he realized the power of virtual natural instruments and electronic music. In 2012, he created a small music group with 2 medical students and C.Boltsi in vocals; they wrote a few songs which they recorded and published. In public he uses the nickname "Savas X" and his songs are available in I-tunes, Spotify and Shazam.

People who are good in hands can be good musicians, good surgeons, and sometimes both!