

Sotirios Prapas, MD, FECTS,

- Director of Cardiac Surgery Department, “Henry Dunant” Hospital Center
- Vice Chancellor of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons (W.S.C.T.S)
- Founder and Chancellor of the “Euro – Asian Bridge” Society (EAB)
- President of the Hellenic Society of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgeons

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**About:**

Born in Sykourio, Larissa in 1954. Graduated from the Medical school of the “Aristotle University of Thessaloniki” in 1979 and completed his training in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the “Georgios Papanikolaou” Hospital in Thessaloniki, under Prof. Panayiotis Spyrou during the period 1982-1989. He continued his postgraduate training at the “Royal Brompton” Hospital of London from 1989-1991 under Prof. Darryl Shore. He returned to Greece as a Senior Registrar at the Pediatric Hospital “Agia Sofia” from 1991-1993. In 1993 he started working as a Senior Registrar at the “Onassis Cardiac Surgery Centre” for 8 years. He organized in 2001, the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the “Henry Dunant” Hospital Centre and is the Director ever since.

**Innovations in Cardiac Surgery:**

One of the world’s pioneers in Off-Pump surgery who inspired the globally recognized arterial “π-graft” technique, supplemental to the OPCAB method, applying Off-Pump, Aorta non-touch and total arterial revascularization. This method proved to be safe and superior to the classic bypass for high risk patients, such as octogenarians, diabetics, patients with renal insufficiency, carotid disease, history of stroke, porcelain aorta and other chronic diseases. The use of mammary arteries in young patients is associated with better long-term results. In 2005, Dr Prapas was the first to have implemented in Greece a combination of Off pump surgical treatment and autologous bone-marrow implantation which appears to improve the patients’ functional status. His innovations include the Off pump coronary total arterial revascularization with the use of the “π-graft”, without manipulations on the aorta, the external reshaping of the LV in OPCAB and the “Prapas Procedure” an alternative method that combined off pump treatment of end-stage ischemic cardiomyopathy, consisting of revascularization of ischemic areas, external reshaping of the left ventricle (LV) in order to restore near normal geometry and autologous bone marrow –derived mononuclear cell (BM-MNC) implantation.

**Academic work**

His academic work consists of numerous full text papers and abstracts in International Medical Journals, presentations in International Congresses, lectures abroad as well as visits to over 60 centers for a live demonstration of the “π-graft” technique. He is a Phd of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. He has taught in the European School of Cardiac Surgery in Bergamo (2009). Alongside Prof. Marko Turina they were assigned by the “Razavi Hospital” Board of Directors, to establish the “Iranian School for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery”, in Mashhad, Iran. He was the chairman of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual congress of the World Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, in Kos island, in 2008. In 2004 he founded the Euro-Asian Bridge Society of Cardiac Surgeons, consisting of 28 countries from the Balkan and the Middle East, promoting the cooperation and friendship among neighbor colleagues. Since 2012 he is the Vice Chancellor of the World Society of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgeons (WSCTS). He is an active member in 10 international societies including the American STS, ISMICS, the European societies EACTS and ESCVS and the Asian SCTS.

Prof. Denton Cooley, the “father” of contemporary Cardiac Surgery, congratulated him for the “π-graft” technique during the 14<sup>th</sup> WSCTS annual congress in San Diego, CA, 2003, because the technique almost eliminates the possibility of Perioperative stroke.

In May 2006 during the 55<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the ESCVS in St Petersburg, he operated and presented live via broadcasting network the surgery of a Russian patient, using the “π- graft” technique.

Medtronic chose him as one of the 8 most distinguished Cardiac Surgeons performing Off Pump operations, to present their experience at the 20<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Cardiac Surgery in Stockholm, Sweden. Sotirios Prapas established an international center of OPCAB surgery using the “π-graft” technique, in the Henry Dunant Hospital Center, in which doctors from abroad are being trained on this method.

Prof. Federico Benetti, known as the father of Off pump surgery wrote to his recommendation letter..” “...*Sotirios Prapas is undoubtedly one of the most important Cardiac Surgeons of these times*”.

#### Specializations

- OPCAB surgery using the innovative “ $\pi$ -graft” technique .
- Autologous bone-marrow implantation
- Repair of cardiac valves (mitral, tricuspid).
- Replacement of cardiac valves ( AVR, MVR)
- Surgery of aorta aneurysm (Bentall, Tyron-David, ascending aorta and arch).
- Surgical Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation.
- Reoperations of the whole spectrum.