



Nongovernmental Organization
In official Relation with World Health Organization (WHO)

**THE 72nd GENERAL MEETING
AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF HYDROTHERAPY AND CLIMATOTHERAPY
(FEMTEC)**



**THALASSA, THALASSA!
Xenophon (430-354 b.C.), Anabasis
*Thalassotherapy and Thermal Medicine: a strategic association for health care,
well-being, and local economic development***

KHALKIDHIKI (Greece), October 16-20, 2019
Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort - www.miraggio.gr

"Thalassa! Thalassa!" "The sea, the sea!" A "loud cry" upon seeing the sea, so much dreamed of and longed for by the surviving veterans of the "retreat" (itinerary: Iraq – Trebizond, Turkey), known as Anabasis, after two years (401-400 B.C) of adventures, braving hostile populations, hunger, strain, snow, and frost. Written in the style of a modern news report by Xenophon, who fought himself alongside the ten-thousand Greek mercenaries.

This emotion can still be experienced today, from a different viewpoint and approach, as proposed by the FEMTEC Congress!

Identify the possible synergies between two major therapeutic traditions (thalassotherapy and thermal medicine); propose a shared and scientifically, economically, and socially integrated action plan for health care, wellbeing, and local development; review the new, actual scenarios resulting from climate and environmental changes connected with health tourism: these are some of the main goals, themes, and objectives addressed during the 72nd Annual Congress of FEMTEC.

Thermal medicine, whose origins are at the very basis of human civilization, and the use of the marine environment for therapeutic purposes (thalassotherapy) developed in different ways. The former derived from the Greek-Roman culture as an organized approach, the latter from the 18th-century Anglo-Saxon one, even if Euripides (The Trojan Women) was the first to claim that "the sea washes away all men's illnesses."

However, in time and until this day several socioeconomic and cultural events have brought to confrontations, competition, and sometimes, misunderstandings between them.

This era of social networks and over-digitalization (smart watches, cyber-economy, health algorithms, etc.) has produced the so-called "**Metric Society**", according to German sociologist **Steffen Mau**, where everything is measured and assessed. Life has been reduced to a checkbox, and people are assessed according to data, rather than as individuals. **The Economist** (https://www.economist.com/books-and-arts/2019/02/23/life-and-society-are-increasingly-governed-by-numbers?sc_visitor=69900136372096903932498200423549073171) nicely describes this situation (*Life and Society are increasingly governed by numbers*).

The States themselves use such methods to present their performance to major international organizations in the best possible way.

If our Society is actually what it looks like, is there a role for therapies based on the scientific use of natural treatments?

And, if so, what are the proposed interventions and the possible solutions?

Facing these spreading phenomena, what can we expect for their future, also within national Health Systems, and with respect to their need for technological updates, human resources, research methodologies, data collection and analysis, the organization of hospitality, etc.?

The challenge will call for a reconciliation of new global socioeconomic and environmental conditions with the unique specificity of the thermal and thalassotherapeutic tradition defined by the therapeutic and environmental characteristics of the "genius loci" and **by the concept of the patient at the heart of care and "of recovery of the lost body."** And, moreover, how can the growing demand for health be integrated with infrastructures allowing sustainable development and tourism?

Like for Society, skills and capabilities will have to change for Thermal Medicine and Thalassotherapy as well: while problem-solving will still be the most sought-after soft skill in 2020, critical thinking and creativity will also be important. The present challenges of modern and advanced societies can be summarized as **development, environmental, human, and personal sustainability**.

Ever since its foundation, 81 years ago, FEMTEC (www.femteconline.org) has been introducing innovative topics for discussion and practical solutions. We believe that only a strategic alliance – competitive, yet not hostile – can lead to a successful outcome.

This year the **72nd Congress of FEMTEC will take place in Khalkidhiki, in Greece**, a Country of ancient cultural and historical traditions, where hydrotherapy is deeply rooted. Also known as **Khalkidhiki Peninsula**, Khalkidhiki is located in the North-East of **Greece**, in the region of Central Macedonia. Its 550 kilometres of **white beaches**, bordered by crystal-clear waters, and its ancient history make Khalkidhiki a true treasury of the **Mediterranean** sea.

Choosing the location and venue for the Congress is not just a logistic matter, but is also an opportunity to introduce a one-of-its-kind region, rich of unrivalled environmental, cultural, and thermal resources integrated into a unique geographic context. The **Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort - www.miraggio.gr – is an advanced model of integration among thalassotherapy, hydrotherapy, and medical wellness.**

The Congress offers a busy cultural agenda, including visits and professional meetings.

One session, in particular, will be dedicated to relations between climate change and tourism economics on occasion of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Centre for Research on Medical Bioclimatology of the Milan State University.

The main topics of the Congress include:

- Structure and organization of national and international thermal systems
- Economic and social strategies and policies for hydrotherapy
- Environment, climate, thermae, and health: the new potentials of information technology
- Training and research as tools for knowledge and information
- Approaches to care, health, and wellbeing: traditional vs. complementary
- Integrated methodologies for thermal rehabilitation
- Climate change and **health tourism** economics: The role of the thermal patient-user
- Telemedicine
- Traditional and IT communication and marketing
- New technologies and health safety
- Health tourism
- Hospitality organization
- Culinary arts and thermal regions.

Welcome in Khalkidhiki (Greece)!

The President
Professor Umberto Solimene



<p>Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simona Busato simona.busato@libero.it (It – En)• Natalia Chaurskaya natmo@mail.ru (Fr – Ru) <p>President: umberto.solimene@unimi.it</p> <p>PLEASE REFER TO THE FEMTEC WEBSITE FOR ALL INFORMATION ON THE CONGRESS www.femteconline.org</p>	<p>Congress and accommodation venue: Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort Kanistro, 63085 Paliouri, Khalkidhiki, Greece Tel: +30 237 44 40000 · Fax: +30 237 44 40001 Mob: +30 6972559985 email: events@miraggio.gr www.miraggio.gr</p> <p>• 5-day (4-night) package (all-inclusive*) as from the tentative agenda below:</p> <p>SINGLE ROOM: 520.00 EUR DOUBLE ROOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 delegate + escort 520.00 EUR +150.00 EUR- 2 delegates 440.00 EUR- 2 escorts 410.00 EUR <p><i>*Airport-Hotel-Airport transfer, full board, participation in the Congress, simultaneous translation in English-Russian-Greek, Coffee breaks, Gala dinner, Congress Proceedings, certificates, awards, excursions and visits to hydrotherapy centres.</i></p> <p>Escorts: (single room 450,00 EUR)</p> <p>• For participation limited to the scientific sessions of the Congress: 100.00 EUR</p> <p>Official travel agency (booking): Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort Kanistro, 63085 Paliouri, Khalkidhiki, Greece Tel: +30 237 44 40000 · Fax: +30 237 44 40001 · Mob: +30 6972559985 events@miraggio.gr · www.miraggio.gr Ms. Nona Azoidou</p>
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	<p>email: reservations@miraggio.gr</p> <p>Reference bank (payment due by September 30, 2019) Med Sea Health SA. (Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort)</p> <p>NATIONAL BANK IBAN: GR 390 1102 1000 0002 1000 133 310 Office: A Thessaloniki Branch (210) Swift: ETHNGRAA Holder: Med Sea Health SA.</p>
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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Day 1	October 16, 2019
08:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Arrival, pick-up at the airport, coach transfer to the "Miraggio Thermal Spa Resort" Hotel, and accommodation.
08:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.	Pre-dinner drink, welcome dinner, and traditional music.
Day 2	October 17, 2019
08:00 a.m. - 09:00 a.m.	Registration of the Congress delegates
09:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Official opening of the 72nd International Scientific Congress of FEMTEC
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	1st Scientific Session
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Coffee break and group photo
12:00 a.m. - 01:30 p.m.	2nd Scientific Session
01:30 p.m.- 02:30 p.m.	Lunch
02:30 p.m.- 04:30 p.m.	3rd Scientific Session
04:30 p.m.- 05:30 p.m.	Break-up in groups and discussion on major topics
05:30 p.m.- 08:00 p.m.	Free time
08:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.	Dinner
10:00 a.m.- 01:00 p.m.	Escorts' agenda
Day 3	October 18, 2019
09:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.	4th Scientific Session
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Coffee break
12:00 a.m. - 13:30 p.m.	5th Scientific Session
01:30 p.m. - 02:30 p.m.	Lunch
02:30 p.m. - 04:30 p.m.	6th Scientific Session and meeting of the Executive Committee
05:00 p.m. - 06:00 p.m.	GENERAL MEETING and delegate awarding ceremony
06:00 p.m. - 07:00 p.m.	Tree planting
08:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Gala dinner with traditional music
10:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.	Escorts' agenda
Day 4	October 19, 2019
09:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.	Introduction and visit to the SPA
01:30 p.m. - 02:30 p.m.	Lunch
02:30 p.m. - 05:30 p.m.	Cultural agenda
05:30 p.m. - 08.00 p.m.	Free time
08:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Dinner
Day 5	October 20, 2019
	Delegate departure

WORLD FEDERATION OF HYDROTHERAPY AND CLIMATOTHERAPY

F E M T E C

Website: www.femteconline.org

Founded in 1937, FEMTEC (the World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy) gathers the public and private Institutions representing Thermal Centres in the respective Countries and currently has 32 Member States.

FEMTEC is the **only** Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in the sector boasting official relations with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

The Federation's main goals include:

- represent and promote the world hydrotherapy sector in a variety of national and international venues;
- promote international co-operation;
- promote the mutual exchange of sector-specific studies, research, training, and expertise.

FEMTEC has several Commissions (Medical, Tourism & Health, Technical, Economy & Technological Innovation, Spa Management, International Affairs Office) and 3 Sub-commissions (Integrated Thermal Medicine, Complementary Medicine, Scientific Research) operating in the medical, economic, technical, and social sector.

The Federation also maintains institutional relations with the **European Spa Association (ESPA)**, the **World Tourism Organization (WTO)**, the **International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology (ISMH)**, the **Global Wellbeing Institute (GWI)**, and other international organizations.

Its President is Professor Umberto Solimene (Italy), from the Milan State University, one of the most outstanding representatives of worldwide Hydrotherapy.

FEMTEC has 4 permanent training centres:

- **Italy** (www.thermaecampus.it);
- **Russia** (cooperating with the Russian International Academy for Tourism (www.rmat.ru));
- **China** (cooperating with the Chinese Hot Spring Association);
- **Tunisia** (cooperating with the Ministry of Health, www.thermalisme.nat.tn)

Information:

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