

**SUSTAINABILITY OF PHOTOSYNTHESIS RESEARCH**

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The International Meeting “Photosynthesis Research for Sustainability – 2015” has been organised in honour of Dr. George C. Papageorgiou. George is well known and respected as a great scientist. What is most probably not known is that he has been an outstanding and passionate teacher. He has guided his students to reach the essence of knowledge starting from a deep understanding of the basics. Without considering anything as obvious, he has explained with patience both theoretical and experimental aspects, working with his students side by side at the bench and with the fluorimeter, teaching them how to write publications, stimulating their minds, inspiring and fascinating them, and triggering the best in them. I had the privilege to know this well, to appreciate it and to benefit from it while being his postgraduate student in the early 1970s, and I am happy to have the opportunity in this meeting to acknowledge it publicly. By honouring George' s virtues, I also give a picture of how, in my opinion, Photosynthesis Education should be, attributing to Education a much broader meaning than that offered by formal lessons. I refer to the continuous process of dissemination of knowledge that is advanced by research, which is also as such an educating procedure, and which, in turn, leads to research progress and further knowledge advancement. On the basis of this strongly dialectical relation between education and research, the title of my talk is formulated by inverting that of the meeting to "Sustainability of Photosynthesis Research", with arguments that apply to any scientific research. However, this sustainability requires more than a good and inspiring education. I bring to the discussion other aspects that, I am afraid, jeopardise and undermine sustainability of research, hence of progress in science. These aspects are created by the currently predominant system, which has turned to "measuring" scientific "production", to suppressing heretical ideas and pressuring their carriers, and to establishing funding policies that are designed accordingly. Their direct consequence is the struggle for impact factors, performance indicators and grant hunting – endlessly writing proposals

and filling application forms. These activities impede research rather than promoting it, create antagonism between researchers and labs, and drive the creative researcher away from originality, discovery, and from the unique satisfaction that these bring.