

Dear colleague,

We are pleased to inform you that the **International Olympia Symposium "Becoming an Olympic athlete without doping"**, a leading conference for anti-doping will take place in **Ancient Olympia, Greece, on June 24th& 25th, 2019**.

Sport as a credible brand is in crisis.

Doping threatens to eliminate what sport is all about, i.e. the joy of athletic competition, the glorification of human effort and the embodiment of the Olympic ethos. It is clear that anti-doping today is nowhere near as effective as stakeholders in sport and the public at large desire (e.g., the fact that only a small minority of the frequently tested elite athletes among the numerous doping scandals were caught through a positive drug), yet it makes little sense to start afresh, especially given recent signs of progress.

What is needed is an evolution of sport rather than a revolution, building on the successes of a fairly young agency (WADA was established in 1999) A solution is needed that encompasses a holistic anti-doping approach with input from all major disciplines, stakeholders, sponsors and interested industry.

With this challenge in mind, international opinion leaders in anti-doping and Olympic sport have been invited to discuss the issue. This unique Symposium is purposely held at ancient Olympia, a place with a very special symbolism, and is indented to serve as an important venue in order to demonstrate that becoming an Olympic athlete is in fact possible without doping. The additional aim of the symposium is to promote Olympism in our society.

We are very pleased to inform you that **Participation is free** and the Organizing Committee will offer **free accommodation** at Olympia to the first 50 post graduate students from abroad.

You may find all the necessary information at the website of the Symposium: www.olympia2019.gr

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Olympia and hope that you will enjoy the Symposium as well as your stay in Greece.

Professor Yannis Pitsiladis
Chair of the Conference

Symposium Secretariat

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