



PRESS RELEASE

Science and sports join forces to send a powerful message: "We run for vaccination - Run4Vax"

The scientific community has already run the race of discovering a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. It is now up to all of us to run our own race, to build a wall of immunity and keep out dangerous virus mutations.

In light of the need to increase vaccination rates and taking into account that the best way to spread the message is through proper awareness raising, the Ioannina Lake Run and the scientific medical community decided to join forces and "run" a campaign on the significance of vaccination in dealing with the COVID-19 threat.

Occasioned by the organization of the panhellenic medical conference **What is New in Respiratory Medicine**, scheduled to take place in Ioannina on 16-19 September 2021 which coincides with the **Ioannina Lake Run**, to be held on 18-19 September, the **#Run4Vax** campaign is a call to action against COVID-19.

The **What is New in Respiratory Medicine** conference is organized by the University of Ioannina Clinic of Pulmonary Medicine and the Association of Pulmonologists of Greece, under the auspices of the Hellenic Thoracic Society, the Hellenic Chest Diseases Society, as well as the broader scientific community. Over 300 participants from Greece and abroad will be hosted in Ioannina, while hundreds of others will attend from afar, given that a mixed/hybrid participation system has been adopted due to the health protocols in effect.

The Ioannina Lake Run is one of the top running events in the country, which is being organized for the past 15 years on end and one that has linked its name to important environmental and social actions. In this year's anniversary event, it was decided to make the **#Run4Vax** campaign part of the program and adopt its message, broadcasting it loud and clear to the running community -among many others.

In the framework of the races that will take place around Lake Pamvotida on the penultimate weekend of September, a series of initiatives shall be undertaken to spread the **#Run4Vax** message, because accurate information and communication are of the utmost importance when it comes to protecting our health, as well as to tackle this very difficult and challenging conjuncture in the best way possible.

At the same time, with the active participation of all the pulmonologists in town, we will make an extensive effort to offer valid scientific information and raise public awareness, the benefits of which will help break the chain of infection and finally return to our favorite activities without any restrictions.