

## **Letter of appreciation to all General Members**

Dear General Members,

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each and everyone of you, for your interest and support of the work of our Federation and in particular, to those of you who actively participated in the General Assembly in Dubai on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Participation in the General Assembly, as well as applications for nomination to the Board of Directors, exceeded all our expectations.

It both heartens me and makes me proud, that our Federation which was founded almost 20 years ago by a very small group of 'interested and concerned' parents, has now developed and expanded tremendously - both in terms of size and activities - reaching out to support the hundreds and thousands of patients, parents and health professionals around the world. Each and every General Meeting incorporates more and more members, as our Federation continues to grow and develop. Every year more General Members become eligible and are applying to become Voting Members, thus allowing them to participate in the Elections for representation on the Board of the Thalassaemia International Federation and in turn, play a significant role in the decision and policy making of the Federation. This year in Dubai, a significant number of General Members Participated in the General Meeting of TIF - many of whom were participating in a General Assembly for the very first time, which I find very encouraging.

The Elections which took place during the General Assembly and in which only the Voting Members participated resulted in a new Board of Directors being formed - which now represents 11 countries affected to varying degrees, by Thalassaemia. But the work of the Federation is by no means complete and the new Board has already met to decide on a number of activities which relate to the 'near' future.

Being a General Member of TIF, we kindly ask that you keep the office regularly updated on your activities, on your membership following your international election, etc. In turn, TIF will periodically update you on new activities, projects and developments, either by direct communication from the Office, or as a recipient of our quarterly magazine.

I take this opportunity to thank you once again and remain,

with kind regards,  
Panos Englezos  
Chairman TIF - Cyprus