

From: Julio Turrens [jturrens@southalabama.edu]

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:15 PM

To: Diamandis, Dr. Eleftherios

Subject: ASBMB article

Dear Eleftherios

You probably received a thousand emails following your article in ASBMB Today. There a lot of Eleftherios in the Northern hemisphere. Like you,

I left in 1981 (a few years earlier) from Argentina (the other corner). Similar story. My salary at the Argentine National Council for Research was \$50 an month. No grants. Two little kids. Etc.

I was quite successful. Although my marriage did not last, I remarried 21 years ago. Everyone is happy: my kids, my ex, and myself with my wife. Yet, we were not there with the rest of the family. Nieces, nephews, cousins, etc. As you say at the end, I will never know.

Your article was very moving.

Julio

Julio F. Turrens, Ph.D.

Interim Associate VP for Academic Affairs

From: Androulla (Andrea) Hadjikyriacou [mailto:ahadjiky@ucla.edu]

Sent: March 30, 2016 6:15 PM

To: Diamandis, Dr. Eleftherios

Subject: Article in ASBMB today

Hello Dr. Diamandis,

My name is Andrea Hadjikyriacou, and I am a 5th Year PhD student at UCLA.

I just read your wonderful article/story in the ASBMB today magazine, and can definitely relate. I am also from Cyprus, I moved to the USA (Boston, MA) with my parents when I was just 2 years old, but my parents decided to come to the USA for a new life also.

My father was doing a masters and then PhD in Organic Chemistry and my mom was supportive, they came over here, moving their entire lives with 2 small children (I was 2 and my brother was 3 months old!).

I go to visit Cyprus almost every summer since I was in high school, and it has really helped me stay close to my extended family (cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents), and also helped me keep up and nurture the language skills I learned at greek school during elementary school. I also feel deprived of interaction with my grandparents and cousins, and it is just sad that all the major holidays, birthdays, major achievements, are all missed, when other families have everyone attending. I am walking at my PhD graduation in June and while my parents and brothers will be there, I am very disappointed that my grandparents and aunt won't be there, even though I pleaded with them that this will be a very important day for me.

The rest of the struggles you talk about, friends and community, culture, and children, I can relate to as I have been through those also, and watching my parents struggle the same things you have with us (their children). We also had to go to greek school, but my brothers haven't really kept up their language and culture as much as I have, mainly because I have sought it out, and they have become more americanized.

Thanks so much for sharing your story, and just know that a lot of us feel the same! It is nice to have someone write it out so perfectly, as it describes all the feelings!

Will you be attending the ASBMB meeting in San Diego this weekend?

Have a wonderful rest of your week,

Best regards,

Andrea Hadjikyriacou

Andrea Hadjikyriacou, B.S.

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