

## **HPV Vaccination program in Rural Northern Greece**

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### **Background / Purpose**

"Panagia Philanthropini" will utilize proven outreach developed for screening of breast and cervical cancer, in order to implement an HPV vaccination program for underprivileged, rural, minority and immigrant teenagers. Utilizing the present human network, the center will raise HPV vaccination and cervical screening awareness among middle-aged and teenage women. Implementation will be achieved in cooperation with health workers insuring patients' comfort.

### **Methods**

Raising of public awareness, using interactive teaching tools i.e.: competition for posters, pamphlet development, web based outreach and meetings in high school so that youth may meet experts and discuss HPV vaccination. The vaccination protocol will be reviewed by the Scientific and Ethics committee. Upon ratification, a daily inoculation clinic will be developed.

### **Objective**

The Center has a high screening cross generational return rate (>75%) given that school girls, recruited in the early 90s to sensitize their mothers and grandmothers for screening, are currently participants themselves. Based upon the screening of 7,000 women annually, the teenage target population is 700-1,000 per year, over a 5 year period, inoculating up to 5,000 girls.

### **Results and Conclusion**

For each woman screened and teenage girl vaccinated, data on socioeconomic, educational status, environmental exposures and other women's health issues will be systematically documented enabling the correlation of the efficacy of the outreach and the vaccine with this data. The comparison will enhance insight regarding effectiveness of the mass HPV vaccination in underprivileged populations in 5, 10, 15 and 20 year increments providing valuable data to the scientific community.