



## **World Thyroid Day**

### **25<sup>th</sup> May**

World Thyroid Day, May 25, was established in 2008 for the purpose of promoting awareness of thyroid disease among our world's populations as part of a campaign led by the European Thyroid Association (ETA; [www.eurothyroid.com](http://www.eurothyroid.com)) and the American Thyroid Association (ATA; [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org)).

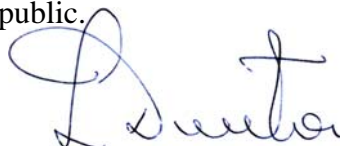
Thyroid disease, today the most widely occurring endocrine disorder, represents a rapidly growing problem round the world. It afflicts millions of people, affecting their daily life, increasing morbidity, reducing productivity and deteriorating the quality of life. In babies and children thyroid disease impacts the growth and development of the brain and body.

The aim of World Thyroid Day (WTD) is to emphasize the widespread incidence of thyroid disease and its multiple associated problems as well as to focus attention on the crucial need for educational and prevention programs to counteract this major affliction. ETA and ATA have joined forces to promote and publicize this event. The establishment of World Thyroid Day has enabled us to broadly propagate knowledge among both physicians and the public regarding the complexity of thyroid disease pathology as well as its treatment. It is also of importance to underline the significance of sustained research in order to secure for millions of thyroid patients a better level of care in the future. Media activities, such as TV appearances, press releases, articles and interviews in newspapers and journals, will take place on this

day throughout Europe and North America to draw political and public attention worldwide to thyroid disease.

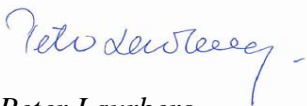
WTD is further reinforced by the Thyroid Federation International's institution of International Thyroid Awareness Week (ITAW), celebrated May 24-30. ITAW, which is supported by the ETA and is addressed to the public, this year throws the spotlight on Thyroid and Child Development and stresses the crucial role played by thyroid hormones, from the prenatal to the adolescent stages, for the somatic and mental health of the child.

World Thyroid Day is truly a highly significant calendar day that we urge all those people around the globe who are deeply concerned in matters pertaining to Thyroidology to commemorate. This means not only our own patients but also members of our international sister associations, our business partners, the thyroid patients' organizations and, in effect, anybody who has a direct interest in issues concerning thyroid research and clinical praxis. Thus, an appeal goes out to professional thyroid associations everywhere to honor WTD as well as to pursue efforts for the propagation of knowledge and the raising of awareness among the public.



*Leonidas Duntas*

*On behalf of the Public Affairs Board of the ETA*



*Peter Laurberg*

*President of the ETA*



*Luigi Bartalena*

*Secretary of the ETA*