NAME – SURNAME: GEORGIOS PAPANIKOLAOU

BIRTHYEAR: 1883

DEATH YEAR: 1962

NATIONALITY:GREEK

CATEGORY: SCIENCE-MEDICINE

George Papanikolaou was a Greek pioneer in cytopathology and early cancer detection, and inventor of the "Pap smear". He studied at the University of Athens, where he received his medical degree in 1904. Six years later he received his PhD from the University of Munich, Germany, after he had also spent time at the universities of Jena and Freiburg. ]

In 1910, Papanikolaou returned to Athens and got married. In 1913 he emigrated to the U.S. in order to work in the department of Pathology of New York Hospital and the Department of Anatomy at the Cornell Medical College Cornell University.

He first reported that uterine cancer could be diagnosed by means of a vaginal smear in 1928, but the importance of his work was not recognized until the publication, together with Herbert Frederick Traut (1894–1963), of *Diagnosis of Uterine Cancer by the Vaginal Smear* in 1943. He thus became known for his invention of the Papanicolaou test, commonly known as the Pap smear or Pap test, which is used worldwide for the detection and prevention of cervical cancer and other cytologic diseases of the female reproductive system. His invention saved and still saving the life of billion women around the world.

