

## Extract from OP-SF NET

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Subject: Panayiotis D. Siafarikas 1953-2010

Panayiotis ("Panos") D. Siafarikas died in Patras, Greece on June 26, 2010. He had been diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas about six months ago.

Panos was born in 1953 in Tirnavos, Larissa, Greece and studied at the University of Patras obtaining his PhD under the supervision of Evangelos K. Ifantis in 1980. Apart from visiting positions in various countries, he had his career at the University of Patras, achieving the rank of Professor in 1992. He served in a number of administrative positions, including Chairman of the Department of Mathematics from 2003 to 2007.

His research interests were largely in the fields of special functions and differential equations though he also published in quantum theory, operator theory, difference equations and other areas. In a series of articles starting in the 1980s, some with Ifantis and others, he developed a method of using an operator in an abstract Hilbert space to discover properties of zeros of functions satisfying three-term recurrence relations. This was particularly useful for studying dependence of the zeros on a parameter, and for discovering the location of zeros in the complex plane. More recently, with Árpád Elbert (J. Approx. Theory 97 (1999), 31-39), he proved a monotonicity property of zeros of ultraspherical polynomials that marked a final step in a series of partial results by other authors over a 12-year period.

Among Panos' PhD students were [Eugenia N. Petropoulou](#) and Ioannis D. Stabolas, later colleagues at the University of Patras.

Panos served the international mathematical community by the organization of successful conferences. He was one of the main organizers of the OPSFA meeting in Patras in September 1999 (dedicated to Theodore S. Chihara) and the Editor of its Proceedings (J. Comput. Appl. 133, Nos. 1-2, 2001). He was also mainly responsible for the organization of the 2nd International Conference on Differential, Difference Equations and their Applications, in Patras in July 2002 (dedicated to Evangelos Ifantis) and editing its Proceedings (Hindawi Publishing Corporation, 2004).

Panos will be remembered for his outgoing and enthusiastic personality. He was a generous host and will be remembered fondly by all who had the pleasure to know him. He leaves his wife his wife Katerina, his daughters Athina and Amilia and his son Takis.

I am grateful to Eugenia N. Petropoulou for some of the information given here.