

George Nicholas Papanicolaou

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PAP smears are not pap talks! They are taken seriously not only by pathologists and gynecologists but also by lay public particularly women. Thanks to George Nicholas Papanicolaou who created awareness among medical and lay community about the importance of simple smear cytological examination in prediction and prevention of cancer. Although Papanicolaou's work had been largely confined to the female genital tract smears examination, his work no doubt sparked the interest in other areas of the body. Exfoliative cytology of other organs, touch cytology and even Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology owe its popularity and its service to the humanity to some extent on Papanicolaou who significantly contributed to make cytology a popular discipline. Papanicolaou comes from the land of earlier sciences i.e. Greece. However he was quite different from earlier Greek scientists who were mostly philosophers who did little hard work in laboratory sciences. It were Muslims who actually founded the laboratory sciences through their zeal for understanding and hard work sparked by constant encouragement of Quran?e-Majeed and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on learning from birth to grave.