



# THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE



**PROFESSOR GIVI JAVASHVILI**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

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**NINO KIKNADZE**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

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*Standing (from left to right): invited teachers Ketevan Khetsuriani, Tamta Jojua, Tamar Melikidze, Nino Gelashvili, Mary Tsulaia;  
Sitting: Professor Emeritus Guram Kiknadze, Associate Professor Nino Kiknadze, Professor Givi Javashvili*

The Department of Family Medicine of the Tbilisi State Medical University is the first academic structure aiming to develop family medicine discipline in higher medical education. The department activities include following components:

- Undergraduate education for the medicine (including US MD program), public health, physical medicine and rehabilitation and international faculty of medicine and stomatology faculties students;
- Postgraduate education in the field of Family Medicine within the framework of (A) residency program (B) short-term (training) programs;
- Continuous professional development programs.

The Family Medicine department was established in 2001 as the Faculty of Family Medicine at the Georgian State Medical Academy. In 2006 the Georgian State Medical Academy became a part of the Tbilisi State Medical University and TSMU Family Medicine Center and Department was established.

## *Undergraduate Education*

In 2006 education program Family Medicine was elaborated and developed for the 6th year medicine faculty students. In 2007 Communication Skills teaching courses for the freshmen and sophomore medicine faculty students and education programs for the freshmen, sophomore and junior public health faculty students were developed.

In 2018-2019 the department was involved in the education process of the physical medicine and rehabilitation sophomore students. Nowadays the department develops seven education courses for Georgian and international students.



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- “Professional Communication Skills 1” (Problem-Based Learning) - Medicine Faculty freshmen students
- “Professional Communication Skills 2” (Problem-Based Learning) - Medicine Faculty sophomore students
- “Family Medicine” - Medicine Faculty 6th year students
- “Communication Skills” - Public Health freshmen students
- “Family Medicine” - Public Health sophomore students
- “Primary Health Practice” - Public Health junior students
- “Communication Skills” - Physical medicine and Rehabilitation sophomore students

The Family Medicine residency program was elaborated in 2002 (duration 30 months). The first applicants enrolled in 2003. The postgraduate program was developed in collaboration with the international experts, President of the European Association of Family Doctors, Egle Zubiene (Lithuania), President of the World Association of Family Doctors, Prof. Igor Svab (Slovenia), Prof. Justin Allen (UK) and Prof. Adam Vindak (Poland). The program was updated twice in 2007 and 2013. It covers 33 months and is divided into three stages:

- **Stage I** - Introduction in Family Medicine (6 months)
- **Stage II** - Rotation in clinics (17 months)
- **Stage III** - Final course in Family Medicine

## *International Partnership*

The TSMU Family Medicine Center and Department is involved in diverse international projects. The partners of the department are: European Academy of Teachers in Family Medicine, Lithuanian Society of General Practitioners, Vilnius University, Klaipeda University, Free University of Amsterdam, American Academy of Family Physicians, American movement “Physicians with Heart”.

The academic staff of the department Prof. Givi Javashvili, Head of the Department, Assoc. Prof. Nino Kiknadze, Emeritus Guram Kiknadze, Invited lecturers: Tamar Melikidze, Ketevan Khetsuriani, Mery Tsulaia, Ketevan Rusia, Natia Imerlishvili, Nino Gelashvili, Tamta Jojua, Guranda Dzindzibadze, Natia Giorgadze, Tamar Tsagareishvili, Salome Tchelidze, Tsitsi Chikovani are actively involved in education and scientific activities of the department.