



# MEDICAL

TBILISI STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

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# Newspaper



*According to the decision of TSMU Academic and Representative Board at Tbilisi State Medical University was formed a new faculty: International Faculty of Medicine. Together with professors international students of International Faculty of Medicine are also members of the Faculty Board and they are given an opportunity to be involved in all processes of TSMU. The acting dean of International Faculty of Medicine is Assoc. Prof. Davit Tophuria.*

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## The 6th annual White Coat Ceremony of the American MD Program On September 21, 2018, the 6th annual White Coat Ceremony of the American MD Program was held at Tbilisi State Medical University.

Welcoming the incoming class is always a true celebration. The White Coat Ceremony highlights traditional events that mark the students' transition from high school to medical society.

During the ceremony the Rector of the Tbilisi State Medical University, Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, together with distinguished guests coated new students with medical coats as a symbol of their entrance into the medical profession.

WCC 2017 will be attended by all the students of the program, their friends and parents too. Among them will be the students who has spent 4 weeks in USA, Atlanta. They took part in a special program at Emory University School of Medicine during this summer.

White Coat Ceremony 2018 is



significant as it marks 6 years, or a full academic cycle of the American MD program. The first class, admitted 6 years ago will also graduate from the American MD program in this academic year.

The American MD Program was established at Tbilisi State Medical University in collaboration with Emory University School of Medicine. The goal of the program is to make a modern American medical education

program available in Georgia in order to produce globally competitive medical professionals. To achieve this goal, Emory University School of Medicine provides its own medical curriculum and methodological assistance to Tbilisi State Medical University. Students of the American MD Program have a unique opportunity to participate in clinical workshops, exchange programs and clinical training at Emory University.

Some of the unique features of the American MD Program are early introduction to clinical medicine, professional motivation and professional development

The American MD Program was a brainchild of the late Dr. Ken Walker. Dr. Walker passed away on February 23, 2018. Along with many other successful initiatives in Georgia, the American MD program will carry the memory of him as a reminder of all the good he has done for society globally.



## Dr. Irma Kvitsaridze, Honorary Doctor of TSMU, Senior Doctor at Radiation Therapy and Radiooncology Center of Medical University of Innsbruck visited Tbilisi State Medical University



On September 17-19, 2018, 27 professors from the leading universities of Austria, Germany, Poland, Romania and US visited Tbilisi State Medical University. On September 17, 2018, professors attended the event dedicated to the beginning of the new academic year. On September 18-19, they delivered lectures for the students and academic staff of TSMU and provided clinical activities at TSMU clinics (First University Clinic and G.Zhvania Pediatric Academic Clinic). Among the invited guests was Dr. Irma Kvitsaridze Honorary Doctor of TSMU, Senior Doctor at Radiation Therapy and Radiooncology Center of Medical University of Innsbruck (Austria). The lecture by Dr. Irma Kvitsaridze "Treatment of Spinal Glioblastoma

- Case from Practice" raised a great interest among the students and academic personnel of TSMU. On September 19, Irma Kvitsaridze, Honorary Doctor of TSMU together with Professor Prof. Stephanie Foerster - Neuropediatric Clinic - Rosenheim Epilepsie and Professor Prof. Antony James Sweeney, Radiation Therapy and Radiooncology Clinic visited the TSMU Givi Zhvania Pediatric Academic Clinic, where they met with

the administration and staff of the clinic. According to Dr. Irma Kvitsaridze, Innsbruck University Clinic and Tbilisi State Medical University have been running the joint programme named after Prof. Manana Kutelia for 3 years already. Within the frames of the program, young doctors, undergraduate students and the students of Bachelor Program in Nursing of Tbilisi State Medical University are passing training course and gaining international experience at Innsbruck University Clinic (Austria). The program is of great interest and we hope that in the future the cooperation between our universities will be deepened and new and interesting projects will be developed.

## Public Lectures by Professor of Pisa University

Under ERASMUS+ KA107 Mobility Programme Chiara Posareli, researcher at the Department of Molecular Diseases and Critical Medicine, University of Pisa, University of Pisa visited Tbilisi State Medical University and delivered public lectures and hold a workshop for TSMU students and residents.

Lectures:

- "How to treat glaucoma? minimally invasive glaucoma surgery".
- "Supraciliary methods of glaucoma surgery"
- "Cyclodestructive procedures of high-intensity focused ultrasound for glaucoma treatment"



Within the frames of the visit, the workshop, focused on modern aspects of treatment and the prospects for future collaboration, was arranged at the Department of Eye Diseases.

## Students' International Society was founded at TSMU

On October 15, "Students' International Society" was founded at Tbilisi State Medical University. The Society unites several hundred Georgian and international students of different Faculties of Tbilisi State Medical University. Within the frames of the public presentation the leaders of the society addressed to students audience and talked in details about the goals and future plans of the society.



The objectives of the initiative group include the followings: representing students' interests; protect students' rights at University, state and international levels; seeking for international vocational education programs and promoting students' involvement, supporting students' organizations, supporting the needs of socially vulnerable and international students with special needs, supporting self-realization and integration into society, creating equal oppor-

tunities for all students, regardless their political, religious, ethnic or cultural origin, or sexual orientation, promotion of healthy lifestyle and involvement of students in mass sports events.

Within the framework of the programs developed by the Students' International Society, implementation of important projects is planned in the nearest future. At the end of the meeting the audience received additional information in the question-answer mode.



## Cooperation between Tbilisi State Medical University and Cardiff Metropolitan University within the frames of Erasmus + Project

On October 22, 2018, within the frames of Erasmus + Project, Professor David Greenslade, Cardiff Metropolitan University (Great Britain) visited Tbilisi State Medical University. The visit of the Expert of English Language Teaching Center (ELTC) to the Center for Foreign Languages at Tbilisi State Medical University founded the foundation for development of further collaboration between the British University and Foreign Languages Center of Tbilisi State Medical University. Within the scope of the visit, Professor David Greenslade met with Professor Nino Abralava Head of Foreign Languages Center of Tbilisi State Medical University and Maka Tatishvili, English Language Programme Director. At the meeting, the plans for future cooperation were discussed. Professor David Greenslade conducted training - „Staff Development, PPPs (present practice produce)“, focused on development of writing skills in teaching sectoral languages, for teachers and academic staff of Tbilisi State Medical University. On October 24-25, 2018, Professor Greenslade held the seminar and practical training in academic writing for TSMU students: 1. Language teaching skills lesson Listening; 2. Academic writing and writing for publication. The seminar was devoted to development of listening skills while studying sectoral language. During the visit Professor David Greenslade met with Prof. Rima Beriashvili Vice-Rector of TSMU, Irina Kapetivadze, Head of Rector's Office, Academic Doctor of Medicine and Nino Kandelaki, ERASMUS+ Institutional Coordinator, Aca-



demical Doctor of Medicine. During these meetings, the need to submit a new Joint Project Application within the Erasmus + program and the main topics as well as significance of deepening cooperation between foreign languages centers have been accentuated. The visit of the British Expert to Georgia will contribute not only raising the level of teaching of English language, but better understanding the international standards and cultural cooperation between the two countries. It should be emphasized that Cardiff Metropolitan University (Great Britain) has a long-term partnership with Tbilisi State Medical University since 2013 within the frames of Erasmus Mundus Project "Medea" and Erasmus + International Credit Mobility. The visit of the British professor was preceded by the official visit of Professor Rima Beriashvili Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, to the Cardiff University in June, 2016. Discussions were focused on the directions and plans of future cooperation. In August of the same year, Nino Kandelaki, coordinator of Erasmus+ and Sophie Gokadze PhD student visited British University,

where the details of the general grant project were specified. Cooperation with British University is not only a great success in regards to internationalization of Tbilisi State Medical University, but it will also contribute implementation of modern methods of teaching English language for future physicians, as well as compliance of learning process to international standards. TSMU focuses on improving academic potential and bilateral exchange programs serve as the opportunity for further development.



## The Conference - New Directions and Treatment Approaches in Clinical Medicine



The Conference - New Directions and Treatment Approaches in Clinical Medicine

On November 24, 2018, the Conference on "New Directions and Treatment Approaches in Clinical Medicine", initiated and organized by the First University Clinic of Tbilisi State Medical University, was held at the hotel "Tiflis Palace".

The event was officially opened and welcomed by Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, who

spoke about the importance and necessity of the conference.

In the conference participated the representatives of the following directions of the First University Clinic: Oncology; Urology; General surgery, Proctology; Radiology and Ultrasound diagnostics; Neurology, Internal Medicine; Laboratory, Allergology, Neurosurgery; Reanimation; Anesthesiology; Vascular Surgery and Traumatology. Within the frames of the meeting have been discussed: interesting clinical cases, performed surgeries, new therapeutic and clinical strategies and their importance for the future of medicine.

At the end of the event, the question-answer session between the speakers and the audience was arranged after which participants were awarded the certificates. According to the organizers of the conference, such meetings will become a tradition and will be held annually



## World Keratoconus (KC) Day at TSMU



On November 10, 2018, the Conference on the "Keratoconus - Diagnosis, Treatment and Correction", dedicated to World Keratoconus (KC) Day was held at Tbilisi State Medical University for ophthalmologists and residency students of Tbilisi State Medical University.

The conference was led by Professor Merab Dvali, MD, PhD.

International experts shared their knowledge and experience with the participants of the Conference:

- Professor Vincenzo Sarnicola (Italy);
- Professor Krisztina Nikula (Romania);
- Professor Andrey Zolotarev (Russia);

According to Professor Dvali, this disease develops at a young age and is widespread in the Transcaucasian countries, so the mentioned issue for Georgia is of great importance. According to her, Georgia already has 15 years-experience in diagnostics, screening and treatment of Keratoconus. Every participant of the conference were awarded the certificates.

## Lecture - "Breast Cancer Predisposition, Genetic Testing and Management of Family Members"

On November 2, 2018, Associate Professor Irakli Kokhridze, Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, delivered a lecture on "Breast Cancer Predisposition, Genetic Testing and Management of Family Members" at Tbilisi State Medical University.

Within the frames of joint collaborative project (series of lectures in personalized oncology) this is the second lecture organized by Tbilisi State Medical University and the Company "Cellmax life" (California, USA).

The meeting was opened and the project was introduced to the audience by Professor Tinatin Chikovani Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Head of TSMU Immunology Department.

The lecture was focused on the opportunities of personalized medicine, the importance of genetic testing and the prevention of breast cancer development. At the end of the lecture a discussion-session was arranged. It should be noted that lectures' attendees will be awarded the Certificates of TSMU and Cellmax Life. The lectures will be held once a month;

## International Conference Chronic Neurological Disorders - E-Health Approach



On October 26 a full day conference: "Chronic Neurological Disorders - e-Health approach", was held at Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU). The conference was devoted to finalization of the project "first Georgian version of the digital Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia" and launch of new international project on automatic detection of epileptiform EEG abnormalities. The conference was carried out under auspices of the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation and Tbilisi State Medical University.

Stichting Epilepsy Institute in the Netherlands (SEIN) and the TSMU Neurology Department at Simon Khechinashvili University Hospital (SKUH) in Tbilisi, established Epilepsy and Sleep Centre in 2014. Our centre brings

together the latest knowledge and expertise in the area of diagnostics, treatment and guidance of people with epilepsy and sleep disorders.

Major priority of our Centre is to take initiatives regarding patient related research and contribute to innovations in the organization of care.

Since December 2016 our centre developed first Georgian version of the digital Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (ICBT-i). This project was funded by Shota

Rustaveli National Science Foundation grant program for applied sciences. Now the project is at final stage and primary results on the ICBT-I efficacy are already available.

Another joint research project together with SEIN and Austrian Institute of Technology is initiated this year in the context of improving the quality of epilepsy care - validation of newly developed automatic detection software for epileptiform EEG abnormalities.

Leading scientists from Netherlands, Austria, UK and Ukraine participated in this international event. Rector of the Tbilisi State Medical University Professor Zurab Vadachkoria opened the Conference and welcomed participants. Welcome speeches made Deputy Direc-

tor of the Rustaveli National Science Foundation Mrs. Nino Gachechiladze, President of the International Bureau for Epilepsy Prof. Martin Brodie (UK) and Dr. Al de Weerd (SEIN, Netherlands). Prof. Natela Okujava presented brief overview of research projects on sleep disorders and epilepsy.

Two major issues were discussed during the full day conference: role of the e-health in sleep disorders and e-health in diagnostics and management of epilepsy. Presentations were given by leading experts in this scientific field: Prof. Martin Brodie, Prof. Annemieke van Straten, Dr. Al de Weerd, Dr. Tilmann Kluge, Prof. Natela Okujava, Dr. Alex Tsereteli. The conference attended neurologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, basic scientists, AIT specialists, medical students and residents. Multidisciplinary approach to sleep and epilepsy research was of special importance and interest for all participants and led to lively discussion.

This conference will contribute to the scaling up of epilepsy and sleep care and open new perspectives for multidisciplinary research in the field of neurosciences.

**Natela Okujava MD, PhD,**  
Associate Professor, Tbilisi State Medical University  
Head, SEIN-SKUH  
Epilepsy and Sleep Centre  
IBE Vice President European Region

## Prof. Arndt Rolf's visit in Tbilisi State Medical University

October 16, 2018 famous neurologist, geneticist and CEO of Centogene AG, a Rare Disease Company, Prof. Arndt Rolf (Rostock, Germany) visited Tbilisi State Medical University with the lectures on the following subjects: "Biomarkers for rapid and effective diagnosis of rare diseases" and "Precision Medicine - Solutions for Challenges in Rare Diseases".

Within the frames of a very short visit to Georgia Prof. Rolf also visited G. Zhvania Pediatric Academic Clinic. He consulted patients with genetic disorders and offered them genetic diagnostic tests to be performed in Centogene Laboratory free of charge. Patient cases were presented by Dr. Tinatin Tkemaladze and supported by Prof. Michael Lentze, Prof. Nana Geladze and Dr. Sophia Bakhtadze.

In the nearest future, with the support of Prof. Rolf and Centogene Clinical Studies Team, Georgia will be involved in the international multicenter observational program devoted to the new biomarkers development for the following genetic diseases: cystic fibro-



sis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Tuberos Sclerosis, Alport syndrome, Gaucher diseases, Hereditary Angioedema, Alpha-Mannosidosis, Muchopolysaccharidosis, Metachromatic Leukodystrophy. Participation of Tbilisi State Medical University along with the other medical institutions in the program will allow Georgian patients managed by different specialists to get free access to innovative diagnostic technologies and will help to improve the situation in identification patients suffering from rare ge-

netic disorder in our country.

Prof. Rolf is invited to visit Georgia in May 2019 for the "2nd International Conference Human Genome and Health: Translational Medicine in the Omics Era". Possibility to organize patients' assessments, to meet specialists in the area and to further develop collaboration between Centogene and Tbilisi State Medical University and Georgian Society of Medical Genetics and Epigenetics is under discussion.

Prof. Rolf is a principle investigator of several international multicentre studies in the area of rare diseases including the Sifap project (www.sifap.eu), the world's largest study in young stroke patients related to Fabry disease, biomarker studies on more than 30 rare disease indications and epidemiological studies in neurogenetic etiologies. Prof. Rolf has an extensive track record in medical and scientific publications with more than authored/contributed to 250 peer-reviewed publications and acts as a consultant for international biotech and industrial companies, and is also a consultant for the EMA and FDA.

## The 3rd Caucasian Course in Children Neurology

On November 9 - 10, 2018, the 3rd Caucasian Course in Child Neurology (topic - epilepsy) organized by Tbilisi State Medical University, Association of Child Neurology and Behavioral Disorders and European Pediatric Neurological Society was held. The Conference was officially opened and the guests were welcomed by Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University.

Among Conference Participants were the leading neurologists from France, UK, Belgium and Romania. The conference was attended by 70 listeners from both Georgia and other European countries.

Conference organizing committee:

- Nana Geladze - Professor, Head of TSMU Department of Pediatrics
  - Sophio Bakhtadze - Associate Professor, TSMU Department of Pediatrics
  - Biayna Sukhudyanyan - Assistant Professor, Yerevan State Medical University, Yerevan, Armenia
- Lectures by:
- Monika Eisermann - Professor, Paris René Descartes University, Paris, France
  - Lieven Lagae - Professor, Leuven University, Belgium
  - Finar O'Callaghan - Professor, United College London (UCL), London, UK
  - Dana Craiu - Professor "Carol Davila" University Bucharest, Romania
  - Sophio Bakhtadze - Associate Professor, TSMU Department of Pediatrics, Tbilisi, Georgia
  - Tinatin Tkemaladze - Associate Professor, Tbilisi State Medical University, Tbilisi, Georgia
  - Sofia Kasradze - Professor, Caucasus International University, Institute of Neurology and Neuropsychology (INN), Tbilisi, Georgia

## M. SHENGELIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF GEORGIAN MEDICINE OPENED

### To identify our role and place in world civilization



M. Shengelia Museum of History of Georgian Medicine which is the educational-scientific base of Tbilisi State Medical University, was solemnly opened on November 25 after the long rehabilitation works. The Museum of History of Georgian Medicine was founded 55 years ago by Professor Mikheil Shengelia, a researcher of history of medicine, who have left behind the most important scientific-cultural legacy - Museum for History of Georgian Medicine, the first museum of such profile and function in the whole Caucasus region. In the twentieth century a young scientist Mikheil Shengelia was at the root of the investigation of Georgian medicine history. He is considered as one of the founders of the scientific-research school in this field and a tutor of generations of young scientists. The museum houses a unique material of historical value

- prehistoric medical manuscripts, archaeological artefacts, material from medical ethnographic expeditions, personal archives of well-known Georgian doctors, medical devices, apparatus, photo materials, films and fine arts samples. It is interesting that a large part of the exhibits have been found in different parts of Georgia by medical ethnographic expeditions arranged for four decades including material about folk medicine, medical ethnography and folklore. These are tens of thousands of recipes and hundreds of components and herbariums of plant, animal and mineral origin. Materials are studied and processed from a scientific perspective and the opportunities for their application in modern medicine have been provided. It should be emphasized that more than thousand scientific works have been performed on the basis of museum materials, includ-

ing - several monographs, more than five hundred manuscripts of medical character were revealed and textually studied; while the "Catalog of Georgian Medical Manuscripts" issued in 2017 was followed by an international recognition. Professor Ramaz Shengelia, Head of the Department of Medical History and Bioethics of Tbilisi State Medical University, who was an inspirer and organizer of rehabilitation of the museum briefly reviewed the history of the museum, as well as the difficult and fruitful way the museum staff passed to the present day. The Speakers: Levan Kharatishvili, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Mariam Jashi, the Chairperson of the Education, Science, and Culture Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, Zaza Bokhua First Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Academician Roin Metreveli and Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, talked about the great cultural-educational purpose of the museum and professor Mikheil Shengelia's contribution made to the great national affairs; emphasized the most important role of Prof. Ramaz Shengelia - internationally recognized scholar and researcher and his professionalism. Professor Ramaz Shengelia talked to the audience from the scientific point of view about each

item or artifact housed in the museum, as well as the importance and purpose of the significant researches conducted by them for the history of world medicine. According to Prof. Ramaz Shengelia, creating the laboratory of molecular anthropology has been planned to study genetics of modern population, as well as the fossil biological material genetics, which is considered as an important factor for investigation of Georgian nation anthropology and ethnogenesis. For this purpose, the osteotheca - fossil bone material collection has already been created, the genetic research of which will solve many issues of both scientific and national significance. Presentations of modern advances, pharmaceutical and medical equipment innovations in the field of are also planned within the space of the museum. The opening of the museum unequivocally serves to determine the place and role of Georgia in the world civilization.

DAREJAN KOMLADZE



## The Second Quiz of Histology was Successfully Held



On November 20, 2018, the second quiz of Histology organized by the TSMU Department of Histology, Cytology and Embryology was held at TSMU. The main objective of the event was to increase motivation for students in learning and development of various skills. "The complexity presented in the quiz required the students' quick, flexible and analytical thinking, development of teamwork principle. Every skill is important for successful work of future physicians and the aim of our quiz, along with increasing interest in learning, was the development of these skills in students. The number of participants at this stage has increased" - said Professor Rusudan Rukhadze, Head of TSMU Department of Histology, Cytology and Embryology. 7 different teams from the Faculty of Medicine

took part in the quiz game. The game was conducted in 4 stages (moderator - Prof. Natia Gujbidze, TSMU Department of Histology, Cytology and Embryology). Finally, the winner - "Group #4", composed of: Gvedashvili Ani, Maisuradze Tsitsi, Boiko Ekaterine, Dekanoidze Lika, Badridze David, Romashvili Nini, Dolidze Iana, was revealed. Competent jury including: Professor Liana Kikalishvili, Professor Asmat Shukakidze, Professor Irina Kvachadze and Professor Tinatin Chikovani awarded the winner team the certificates and symbolic gifts. At the event, the awards were handed to the technical supporters of the quiz - students of TSMU Faculty of Stomatology. Each participant as well as winners of blitz questions and team captains were awarded the Certificates.

### Medical history in images

The famous facts about history of medicine is well known to the medical society and those, who study medicine, but the piece of art, which reflects issues of the history of medicine, is not always widely presented. Famous scientists and researchers, historical discoveries, which played the main role in future success of science, keeps the great place in the history of art during centuries. we suggest publications about how art reflects medicine

### William Harvey demonstrating his Theory of circulation of the blood



William Harvey (1578-1657) was an English physician who was among the first to describe the circulation of the blood. he conducted numerous experiments on animals to prove his theories and eventually published his findings in his treatise ON the Motion of the Heart and Blood. Before Harvey, it was thought that the arte-

rial and venous systems were largely separate and only came in contact through pores in the ventricles - these pores were invisible. However, Harvey correctly showed that the heart pumped blood into the arteries and that blood returned to the heart by means of veins. He was never able to show how blood passed from ar-

teries to veins but suspected that small blood vessels must be enabling this passage.

Harvey lectured extensively on anatomy and also laid out tenets for what he saw as good practice in medical education. These included only going into as much detail as in necessary and making the best use of dissection and pathological demonstration in education: I profess both to learn and teach anatomy, not from books but from dissections; not from positions of philosophers but from the fabric of nature.

in this image, Harvey is standing and learner is relaxing in his chair - this role-reversal seems surprising until you discover that the learner is King Charles I. Harvey was physician to Charles and to his father King James - indeed he dedicated his acclaimed treatise to Charles.

Kieran Walsh  
MEDICAL EDUCATION  
A History in 100 images