

# MEDICAL

#### TBILISI STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

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Have a happy New Year! May the New Year be a great year with progress, countless achievements in scientific and practical activities, consistent success, health and well-being for all of you.

I want to wish you all - students and Professors, researchers and health care professionals, administration, our numerous fans and partners who are contributing to the development of Tbilisi State Medical University to have a prosperous and healthy New Year! Success of our university is the achievement and personal success of each of you, resulting from our joint team work.

Actually, the New Year is the time to summarize. If we look back over the past year, we have every reason to be proud of our achievements.

In 2018, at the meeting of Authorization Council of Higher Education Institutions, after hearing and reviewing the evaluations provided by the experts as well as argued position of Tbilisi State Medical University, it was decided to award authorization to Tbilisi State Medical University and grant the authority for providing vocational education programs at the Tbilisi State Medical University. I would like to extend congratulations on this success to us all!

Last year we had a serious progress. We have implemented many projects, among them - the joint project developed by Tbilisi State Medical University, Emory School of Medicine and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Many promises have been fulfilled.

Special attention was paid to the rehabilitation and technical equipping of study environment, the development of University Clinics and the infrastructure as a whole. The strategic goal of Tbilisi State Medical University is the continuous improvement of teaching quality, preserving the reputation of Tbilisi State Medical University as a traditional and distinguished center of medical education in accordance with national and WFME standards as in Georgia as - international arena.

Our university undergoes progressive transformations /reforms that are sensitive and visible. These transformations are aimed at developing and implementing a new model of medical education in accordance with European standards. In the future, the outcome of these revolutionary changes will be felt more clearly!

I would like to express my thankfulness to everyone who has contributed to these achievements!

Nowadays, TSMU is considered as the most demanded higher medical schools in Georgia, where more than 8000 undergraduate, as well as Master's and Doctoral students receive education, among them 2300 students are from 68 countries worldwide.

TSMU has signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with more than

120 leading Universities, University Clinics and Scientific-Research Institutions from 40 countries world-wide, on the basis of which students and staff exchange programs are being successfully implemented. TSMU successfully runs International programs such as: American MD program at the Faculty of Medicine together with Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta, US); Joint International Bachelor's Program in "Public Health Management and Health Policy" with UniMan "Academy of International Management and Performance" (France); Georgian-Austrian Bachelor of Nursing program - with TILAC-'s (Tyrol hospitals Union) and the Western Education Centre (AZW).

Every year, Professors and leading specialists from the universities of the US, EU countries, UK, Turkey and Israel visit our university to deliver lectures for TSMU students and specialists.

The complete modernization of the Clinical Skills Center was carried out at TSMU. The center was moved to a new space that fully responds to modern requirements. The objective structured clinical exams (OSCE), together with clinical skills, continue to be based on the Center's base.

In addition to education in clinical skills, evaluation of practical skills by using an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) is carried out on the base of the TSMU Clinical Skills Center.

Five times in succession, Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) was named as the winner in the nomination - "Promoting Access to Public Information in Georgia".

Education is one of the priorities of the country! Our first and most important task is strong support for continuation of efforts to raise academic standards at the University. The university will also try to provide students with all the necessary conditions for achieving success and identifying their opportunities.

Youth gives a reason for great pride. I wish them fruitful student years, becoming highly skilled specialists and meet the expectations, the university the whole country and the society rely on them. We are facing objective and serious challenges, but I am confident that we will be able to cope with them step by step, with the help of intellect, labor and, more importantly, love for the university and profession.

Next year, special attention will still be paid to the quality of academic teaching; we will make every effort to improve our learning environment, information and teaching technology, material and technical base.

We will promote and support professional development of academic and administrative staff, with a special attention to academic honesty, quality of lecturing and working in small groups.

The new, modern methods of teaching and evaluation will be implemented, which, in addition to the knowledge of the facts, will help students to develop clinical skills. Intellectual achievements of the University will become accessible not only for its students and professors, but for patients and the public at large.

Innovations and creative skills or creativity will be encouraged. There is another important value, without which all other conditions will be very difficult to achieve - mutual respect and good honest cooperation. We plan to do all this with your help and support.

The University is ready to cooperate with all local and international organizations to carry out its mission. In addition, according to the needs of the country and society within our capabilities we are ready to provide various types of information, consultation, diagnostic, research, rehabilitation and treatment measures and participate in the process aimed at improving population health.

Professor Zurab Vadachkoria Rector

#### The academic staff of the American MD Program visited the Emory University School of Medicine



The purpose of the visit was to meet the professors of the Emory University School of Medicine, to visit the clinical bases (Grady Memorial Hospital), to observe the Students' study process at the patient bedside.

Doctor-Pumonologist Shorena Shonia and Doctor-Nephrologist Rusudan Rusia met the representatives of the Emory University School of Medicine: Gordon Churchward, PHD-Assistant Dean of Emory University School of Medicine, Joel Felner, MD-Associate Dean, Meredith Lora, MD- Assistant Professor of Emory University, Director of the Internal Medicine Core Clerkship, Varun Phadke, MD-Associate Clerkship Director, Assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Michael Lubin, MD- Director of the Clerkship Subinternship Program and etc.

Shorena Shonia: "We were able to ob-

On December 17, 2018,

serve, how our collegues teach students, how to develop their cognitive skills in clinical environments and the use of the medical knowledge. During the meeting with the above mentioned individuals, we had the opportunity to talk to them and ask them about the requirements and standards they establish for students. We have learned about the aspects of teaching, which are especially important: Formulating a comprehensive, thoughtful and organized medical history, complete and accurate physical examination, correlate with the knowledge of pathology and symptoms of disease. Differential diagnosis for each pathological condition, determine the actions for confirming the diagnosis, monitor the patient's condition and provide a comprehensive verbal report with senior colleagues. We have been familiar with the method of assessing the 8-week course of study".



#### The Conference on Reform of Higher Education Quality **Assurance: Results and Further Steps**

the conference - "Reform of Higher Education Quality Assurance: Results and Further Steps" organized by the National Center for Educational Ouality Enhancement was held at Biltmore Hotel. The Conference was attended by Professor David Gordon, President of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME). The conference aimed at summarizing the first phase of the Higher Education Quality Assurance System Reform in Georgia, which meant upgrading the quality assurance standards and procedures and bringing them in line with the requirements of the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015). The conference discussed the results of institutional and program evaluations carried out in accordance with the upgraded standards and procedures of quality assurance, the ensuing steps, and the possibilities for implementing reforms to improve the activities of higher education institutions. A separate session was dedicated to medical education. At the session Professor David Gor-



don President of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) made a report - "Medical Education Today: What is old? What is new? What will happen in the future?". In her speech Professor Gaiane Simonia, Head of TSMU Department of Medical Education, Research and Strategic Development extensively covered the new sectoral standards of undergraduate medical education. Rima Beriashvili Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University spoke about the authorization processes and institutional assessment of higher education institutions.

### The Delegation of TSMU in Germany



On November 26-29, 2018, the delegation of TSMU: Professor Marina Mamaladze, MD. PhD, Head of Odontology Department, Doctor of Medical Sciences: Prof. Dea Vadachkoria; Head of Doctor of Dental Medicine English Program, Associate Professor of TSMU Department of Clinical Orthopedic Stomatology; Associate Professor Khatia Gogishvili, TSMU Department of Oral Mucosa and Periodontal Diseases; Assistant Professor Tea Tsintsadze TSMU Department of Oral Mucosa and Periodontal Diseases and Nino Gogebashvili Invited teacher were on business visit in Germany.

Within the framework of the visit, TSMU representatives attended the lecture and master class, devoted to the complex treatment of periodontal diseases by "Vector" apparatus, at the Durr Dental Training Center, in Bisingen. The lecture and master-class were conducted by the representatives and clinical consultants of Durr Dental Center. According to the TSMU representatives, the visit was very interesting and fruitful. On the basis of the master-class, they will be able to develop the quality of the treatment of patients using the Vector apparatus.



### Meeting with the International Students of TSMU Faculty of Stomatology (English programme)



On December 7, 2018, the representatives of TSMU Administration and the Faculty of Stomatology and Director of English Language Educational Program of Stomatology met with International Students of TSMU Faculty of Stomatology (English programme).

The speeches were delivered and students were addressed by: Prof. Khatuna Todadze, Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University, Associate Professor Davit Topuria Acting Dean of the International Faculty of Medicine; Associate Professor Dea Vadachkoria, Director of English Language Educational Program of Stomatology; Marika Tskvitinidze and Mariam Kandelaki - Department of Law and the Faculty of Stomatology.

The meeting was focused on the issues concerning to the academic process and administration, faculty structure, training process, evaluation criteria, personal and professional growth perspectives and the rights and responsibilities of the students. At the end of the event, representatives of the TSMU administration answered the questions of the students.

#### **Scientific-Training Tour and Conference** at Vienna University Clinic



On December 11 - 15, 2018, at the invitation of the University of Vienna MAs students and academic personnel of the

Faculty of Public Health and the Faculty of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of Tbilisi State Medical University visited Vienna University.

The scientific-training tour included the acquaintance with the activities provided by Vienna University Clinics. MA students of TSMU made presentations of research works and papers. The delegation consisted of 19 delegates, including representatives of practical healthcare, social and rehabilitation services of Georgia. Within the scope of the tour, a round table was held where students' papers were discussed.

#### On November 18-21, 2018, free medical consultations for people with disabilities was carried out at newly-established "Ken Walker Medical University Clinic for Medical Rehabilitation" in Batumi



cal consultations for people with disabilities was carried out at newly-established "Ken Walker Medical University Clinic for Medical Rehabilitation" in Batumi. Prof. T. Schwartz, invited specialist, occupational therapist of Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta, USA) together with Georgian specialists provided free consultations for people with disabilities within the "Project of Physical Rehabilitation".

On November 18-21, 2018, free medi-

The act-event was attended by: Zaal Mikeladze, Minister of Health and Social Care of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Zurab Taneishvili, Deputy Minister, Lela Surmanidze Deputy Mayor of Batumi, Zurab Orjonikidze Chancellor of Tbilisi State Medical University, Archil Undilashvili, Head of Physical Rehabilitation Project and Director of Educational Programs at Emory University School of Medicine, Gia Morchiladze one of the founders of the clinic, Irakli Natroshvili, invited Professor of Tbilisi State Medical University and General Director of the Clinic, Nini Zardiashvili Director of Georgian Office for American Corporation "Partners for International Development", coordinator of

"Physical Rehabilitation Project".

After free consultations, the patients were allowed to undergo the full course of rehabilitation at the Rehabilitation Clinic.

On November 12, 2018 with the support of Emory University School of Medicine (USA, Atlanta), within the frames of the USAID supported "Physical Rehabilitation project "Ken Walker Medical University Clinic for Medical Rehabilitation" was established by Tbilisi State Medical University and Georgian Office for American Corporation "Partners for International Development" in Adjara Region.

#### **Visit of TSMU Representative to INSERM Institutions** (France)

On December 10-15, 2018, within the framework of "Horizont 2020" Preparatory Project (H2020-I-18-088) funded by Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation, Nona Janikashvili, Associate Professor of TSMU Department of Immunology, Chief Specialist of TSMU Department of Research Coordination, Master and PhD Programs, was on a business visit to INSERM- institutions (Dijon and Besancon, France) where she met with Professor Bernard Bonnot and Professor Philippe Saas. At the meetings with Professor Bernard Bonnot and Professor Philippe Saas, the scientific teams and administrative units, the participants discussed the main goals under joint project that will be submitted to the Horizont-2020 and Maria Sklodowska-Curie Grants as well as individual projects of the INSERM and TSMU. The new project - "New therapeutic approaches for non-infectious diseases

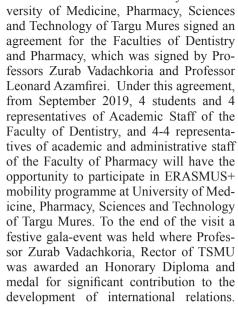
(NetNode - Project acronym)" for Maria Sklodowska-Curie Grant Competition (the horizont-2020) is aiming at detecting new biomarkers in autoimmune diseases and tumors and developing new therapies. Within the framework of NetNode, the multidisciplinary international training of young researchers from TSMU and INSERM was organized within the framework of NetNode on the base of close scientific cooperation with leading scientists in Europe and abroad. The NetNode consortium should ensure involvement of a complete spectrum of scientists with appropriate experiences in autoimmune inflammation and cancer in cellular and molecular immunology, neuroimmunology, immunogenetics, as well as pharmacology and pathophysiology. The aim of this project is to involve young professionals in interdisciplinary international team and train them on the base of partner institutions.

# Visit of TSMU Delegation to Romania



On December 10-14, 2018, TSMU delegation: Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of TSMU, Prof. Khatuna Todadze-Vice Rector, Associate Professor Irakli Kokhreidze - Vice Rector and Irina Kapetivadze Head of the Rector's Office visited University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Targu Mures, Romania. By invitation of the Rector of University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Targu Mures, Romania, Prof. Zurab Vadachkoria attended the annual university event - "University Days"; members of TSMU delegation were invited to the First International Conference "Innovations in Health Care and Personalized Medicine", where Professor Zurab Vadachkoria delivered a speech. Associate Professor Irakli Kokhreidze made a presentation at the Conference. Within the frames of the visit, the delegation members met with the representatives of administrator staff, Vice Rectors on Science and Education, Deans of Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and ERASMUS+ Coordinator for the Programs of the Faculties of Pharmacy and Stomatology at University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Targu Mures. Within the frames of ERASMUS + Programme,





Tbilisi State Medical University and Uni-



The TSMU representatives handed a glass decorative panel of Targu Murasche Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technologies University - painted by Georgian artist that became the object of admiration of Professor Leonard Azamfirei, Rector of the University. "We do hope that this visit will provide the basis for more fruitful cooperation and open the way for our students and academic personnel to get international experience" said TSMU delegation members.



# The 2018 Tbilisi Student Festival

The 2018 Tbilisi Student Festival was organized and held by Georgian Student Associations and the Tbilisi City Hall; this was third time the event, including several sports and cultural events around the city, was arranged. The main aim of the festival is to popularize the healthy lifestyle, activate and diversify students' life, motivate students and promote realization of their talent. In the festival participated the students of the higher educational institutions of Tbilisi. The tournaments were held for the following sports – mini soccer, volleyball, tennis, street basketball, table tennis and bowling. Tbilisi State Medical University was an active supporter and participant of the event. The TSMU was actively involved in the festival. The student of TSMU became the winner of table tennis among girls. This year a cultural section was added to the events as part of the International Festival of Tbilisi Amateur Student Theaters "Nighabi 2018" (MASK 2018) and TSMU theater troupe - "HY-



GIA" presented the performance "Death in the Clouds". The theater troupe won in 3 nominations. The ceremony of the festival was attended by Prime Minister of Georgia Mamuka Bakhtadze and Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze. Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze, addressed to the participants of the Festival: "Such event for young people as 'Student Festival 2018", has not been held in recent years. It's the attitude, the emotion, the spirit that we feel here today – our



country needs every direction and young people play an exceptional role in these things. I want everybody to see that I'm ready to implement all the projects in your best interest and to support your wellbeing, to stand with you, protect the rights of young people, and implement projects that will be important for Georgia tomorrow. We, all together, must tell all of Georgia, every generation of people, how important it is to live in the spirit of a healthy life". Kakha Abuladze Director of Tbilisi Youth Center Unions: "I am glad that the program developed as a result of active work and involvement of my friends has been so successful and has grown in just two years, developed, improved and embraced all the higher education institutions in Tbilisi. It is of great importance that today, the Prime Minister of Georgia and Tbilisi Mayor expressed their readiness to support the organizers and participants of the festival. Thanks to participants, universities, student self-governments and organizers over again"... The Festival was attended by Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University. The organizers of the Festival awarded Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector and Ana Kakabadze President of Student Self Government of TSMU, the prize and Certificates of Appreciation for active participation of TSMU in the event



# Meeting with the First Semester Students of International Faculty of Medicine



On December 13, 2018, Meeting with the first semester students of English Language Program of International Faculty of Medicine was held at the Theater Hall of Tbilisi State Medical University. The students were met and welcomed by: Prof. David Topuria, Dean of International Faculty of Medicine, Associate Professor Levan Benashvili Deputy Dean of International Faculty of Medicine, Mikheil Diakonidze, Head of Students and Alumni Relations and representatives of Student Self-Government. At the meeting the representatives of the Dean's Office discussed the issues related to the academic and administration processes, student evaluation criteria and the faculty structure; the students were also introduced to their rights and obligations. Mikheil Diakonidze, Head of Students and Alumni Relations talked about the services the students are able to apply for during their study as well as after graduation of the University. At the meeting students got acquainted with the structure as well as the implemented and planned activities of the Student Self-Government. The students were informed about the rules to get involved in the forthcoming events. They expressed their readiness to take active part in the activities. To the end of the event. the first semester students of International Faculty of Medicine thanked the University administration and student self-government for their support.







# Scientific-Practical Conference "Child and Adolescent Medicine - XI" First Scientific Conference on Primary Immunodeficiency

This year Professor Karaman Pagava from the Tbilisi State Medical University became 70 years old. To this date he dedicated the traditional, eleventh Conference on Child and Adolescent Medicine and the First Scientific Conference on Primary Immunodeficiency

The Editorial Board congratulates Prof. Pagava and asks him several questions:

– Prof. Pagava, why was this year's conference special?

 As you might know this is the eleventh year that we organize such scientificpractical meetings under the aegis of the Tbilisi State Medical University. The main purpose is to present the cutting edge information to the physicians. Almost always we have some peculiarity. Sometimes the events have international participants. For example, within this conference we organized the first Georgian-Chinese Symposium in Pediatrics and we hope that it will serve as a basis for future fruitful collaboration. Separate sessions are being dedicated to the famous physicians from Georgia. Sometimes we organize these events not only in Tbilisi but in other regions as well. We publish conference materials as a collected book. This year first day of the conference was held in Tbilisi, the second one - in Kutaisi. The very first day the J-Project was implemented with a support from the European Immunode-ficiency Society - First Scientific Conference on Primary Immunodeficiency. Thus, the leading immunologists (T. Chikovani, N. Mitskevichi) took active part in the conference together with the pediatricians (Professors N. Manjavidze, R. Karseladze,

M. Khochava, G. Chakhunashvili, K. Pagava, R. Ghuladze, M Kvezereli-Kopadze, T. Kutubidze, K. Gogberashvili, M. Chikovani, I. Korinteli, I. Paghava; colleagues from Kutaisi - K. Kiliptari, T. Saldadze, G. Alavidze). The presentations covered the current topics of immunology, allergology, antibiotic therapy, infectology. In Kutaisi there was remembered Professor Temur Tonia, famous pediatrician, who passed away recently and who actively participated in preparation of the conference as Deputy

Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. There was presentation of Prof. Tonia's last monography on child nutrition. Also the participants attending Kutaisi session were able to see the film dedicated to 100 years from birth of the prominent Georgian pediatrician, Corresponding Member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, prepared by the medical broadcasting company Pulsi TV. In Tbilisi there was shown the film of Pulsi TV about Karaman Pagava. Also there was presented his bibliography.

- Dear Mr. Karaman, you are 70 years old, what do you consider as your main achievement?

 It is a difficult question. You might consider such response odd, but I think that there are still many things for me to achieve.

As a physician I have contributed to increased interest towards rare diseases, use of bacteriophage. I am proud that I am asked advice on so-called "for-professor" cases which are difficult to diagnose. Sometimes am able to help. As a pedagogue I have added to our University's curriculum such subjects as adolescent medicine and ecological pediatrics. I have participated in preparation of the international syllabus in this field. I am author of more than 600 publications, my citation index has reached almost

1500, Hirsch index 11. Under my leadership 25 dissertations have been defended. I am involved in the international scientific

networks. Out of the main results of the conducted studies I would name the ones that cover mechanisms of bacteriophage therapy, plaferon therpay and laser therapy, adolescents' health-related behaviour, pecularities of the antimicrobials use, physiology of children and adolescents, harmful consequences of parental deprivation and computer abuse. I contribute to the medical and preventive education of the community. My hobby is historical-genealogical research, namely history of the family and the surname. I have published works in this direction as well.

- And what are your future plans?

I am working on a compilation of manuals in pediatrics, a monography regarding the input of Baghvashi-Orbeliani and on Georgian-German relations. I consider it necessary to renew functioning of the rare diseases center, to work out a conception of adolescent health and implement it in our country, to contribute to in silico implementation of such new research methods like fuzzy logic, to conduct new clinical studies, to forward the community's attention towards maintenance and development of the "culture code" among the growing generation. Thus, there are a lot of things to be done.

 Thank you very much for the very interesting discussion. Once again we congratulate you on the birthday and wish you health and fulfilment of wishes.

Darejan Komladze



# Medical History in images

# **NUNG AND HUANG TI**



NUNG AND HUANG TI Shen Nung (third millennium BC) is considered the father of Chinese medicine. Huang Ti (also from the third millennium BC) co-authored The Yellow Emperor's Canon of Internal Medicine with Ch'i Po. This book is perhaps most interesting for its format: it consists of a series of questions posed by the Yellow Emperor and answered by the ex-

perts – a form of medical learning that continues to this day. George Brown emphasises this: 'Questioning is one of the most widely used skills of medical teaching'. The answers to the Yellow Emperor's questions are long and detailed and give us a comprehensive view of what was known of medicine at the time. Interestingly some answers are more in keeping with the philosophy of the time in China than with what must have been known as anatomical fact - a tendency that finds resonance through the ages in medical education. Also of note is that physicians were advised

to be mindful: they were instructed to time the patient's pulse according to their own respiratory rate and so had to be in good health before undertaking the consultation (the pulse was all important in diagnosis).

> Kieran Walsh MEDICAL EDUCATION AHistori in 100 images

# Sport

# When you love football, everything is possible



December 2018 Tbilisi State Medical University organised a 5 vs 5 football tournament specially for the international department. Registration was entirely free and the only thing you had to do was gathering a team and appointing a captain. That is what happened. 16 teams registered all willing to run their lungs out for the benefits of their teammates. And running they did. Every match was played with full dedication, determination and passion. It should have given the referees a hard time, but what is the sense of playing football without passion, right? Passion and love for the sport is exactly what was seen in the tournament. After very long roads for the teams Blaugrana and Pochenki Iraq and after a lot of blood sweat but no tears, they reached

the final of the tournament. You can call it the clash of the titans. Even in group stages you could see that these two teams were a little bit better then the others. They knew the game better. The teammates knew each other better. Both teams knew that they were each other's biggest rivals and the only thing standing between them and the trophy were they.

As soon as the final started both teams were playing cautiously. Passing the ball around, knowing that losing the ball was a big threat and an opportunity to score, something that both teams had proved of being good at. After five minutes Blaugrana was leading 1-0. Joy filled their emotions but they knew it wasn't over. Pochenki Iraq fought hard and played well by which they deserved to score 2 goals. With ten minutes on the clock Pochenki Iraq was winning the match with a margin of 1 goal. The game got more and more passionate and

both teams were
thinking about only
one thing, winning. After well
played football Blaugrana managed to score two more goals in
the last ten minutes and thereby
winning the tournament. The
score: Blaugrana 3: Pocheniki
Iraq 2

After the final whistle both teams were happy and they congratulated each other with their victory. They had already grown to being friends, despite being rivals on the pitch.

Not to forget, a special thank you goes to everyone who made this tournament possible. Especially mr. Zaur Pxaladze (director of sport department), mr. Vaxtang Bakanidze (referee, coach of the university football team) and Raji Bawaran (head of the international department of TSMU self government).

Nikoloz Suramlishvili The 1st semester of faculty of stomatology

