



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL BIOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY



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Department of Medical Biology and Parasitology originates from the department of Biology and Parasitology that was founded in 1930 at Tbilisi Medical Institute. The first head of the department was professor Valerian Rostombekov (1930-1960). During this period assistants: Vladimer Jickia, Boris Kurashvili, Nino Tabidze, Sh. Kalibegashvili, G. Javelidze, T. Revia, M. Todua worked with him in the department.

In the 1960-1980 the head of the department was a professor Vladimer Jickia. Since 1967 the department of Biology and Parasitology has been called as the department of Biology and General Genetics which was already headed by an associate professor Tina Meskhi, in 1992-1993 – by a doctor of biological sciences Marine Pirtskhalava.

Since 1993 the department has been called as the department of Medical Biology, General Genetics and Parasitology, it was headed by Elene Abzianidze in 1993-2005. Since 1994 the department has been called as the department of Medical Biology, Genetics and Ecology.

From the time of the department establishment the main research directions were study of helminth fauna in domestic animals, in infants and school-age children, research of ankylostomiasis in Georgia.

Later the department's main scientific-research directions were study of age aspects of helminth invasions and dysbacteriosis, study of gonadotoxic and mutagenic effects of metronidazole drugs and pesticides in the population of Tbilisi and Rustavi.

A large place in the curricula was devoted to the study of general biological regularities and topical issues of medical parasitology. Molecular and medical genetics issues have also been prominent in curricula since the 1990s.



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As a result of the reorganization at the university in 2005-2006, the two departments were merged, the department of Medical Biology, Genetics and Ecology joined the department of Microbiology, Virology and Immunology, It was called as the department of Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Medical Genetics, the head of the united department became a doctor of biological sciences Nino Khvitia.

In 2006 the department was divided into two departments: the department of Molecular and Medical Genetics and the department of Medical Biology and Parasitology. The doctor of biological sciences Nino Khvitia was appointed as a head of the department of Medical Biology and Parasitology.

In 2006 the staff of the department was as follows: candidate of medical sciences Ekaterine Mchedlishvili, candidate of biological sciences Neli Kurashvili, aspirant Qetevan Tukhashvili, senior laboratory assistant Gulisa Shengelia.

At present the department is represented as following composition: professor Nino Khvitia - head of the department, associate professor Davit Tskhomelidze, associate professor Ekaterine Mchedlishvili, associate professor Manana Pruidze, assistant professor Tinatin Gogichadze, assistant professor Natalia Chiladze, assistant professor Nino Kharadze, laboratory assistant Natia Tchutchulashvili, invited teachers: Salome Kukava, George Moshiashvili, Zurab Petrosiani, Ketevan Sichinava, Nazibrola Mamaladze.

The basic theoretical discipline the Medical Biology is currently taught in the department. It covers the basics and current issues of relatively young but rapidly evolving scientific approaches of molecular cell biology. Their knowledge is a prerequisite for the development of innovative methods of disease diagnosis and treatment which is extremely important for both experimental medicine and biology specialists, as well as practicing physicians.

Medical parasitology has traditionally been an integral part of the medical biology course. Due to the global importance of parasitic diseases, the basics of this field, its specifics and modern biological approaches to it, students take as a separate study course of Medical Parasitology in the department since 2009.