



THE DEPARTMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES



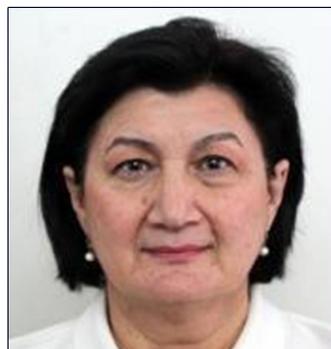
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THE DEPARTMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES



The Department of Infectious Diseases was founded in 1930 headed by Professor Shalva Mikeladze. The scientific activities on actual infectious pathologies have always been one of the most important issues along with the educational activities for the department. The academic staff of the department was involved in the fight against smallpox epidemic. In 1934 the department initiated production of anti-measles serum. The anti-measles serum station played an important role in the measles treatment process.

Prof. Nikoloz Andriadze was the head of the department in 1933-1943. The members of the department were treating and counseling patients throughout the country. The scientific publications were about etiology and treatment challenges of scarlet fever, erysipelas, typhoid fever and gastrointestinal infections. The department initiated implementation of diphtheria croup treatment via intubation. As a result of the innovative treatment tool, mortality of children infected with diphtheria decreased.

In 1942 the Department of Tropical Diseases and the Department of Infectious Diseases were integrated headed by Prof. Memnon Kandelaki (1943-1954). Prof. Giorgi Kvitashvili was the head of the department in 1954-1979. During his productive pedagogical, medical and scientific career the Professor initiated and established a school of infectious diseases doctors in Georgia. Famous Professors: Vladimer Bakhutashvili, Eter Botsvadze, Simon Japaridze and Assoc. Professors: Aslan Khabazi, Tinatin Katsitadze, Gulnara Bregvadze were Prof. Giorgi Kvitashvili's students. The school of infectious diseases doctors created high-quality scientific work and managed to implement them in their medical practice. The academic staff of the department participated in the international scientific conferences even in the Soviet Union period.



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In 1980 one of the best students of the Professor, Prof. Eter Botsvadze became the head of the department. Prof. Eter Botsvadze's achievements in studying viral hepatitis are valuable for the country, including applying biochemical and serological diagnostic and clinical-immunological research methods. She studied the epidemiology of noninfectious etiologic factors of hepatitis, methods for predicting the disease severity and introduction of antiviral and supportive therapies. Scientific articles were dedicated to studying treatment of central and peripheral neural systems and gastrointestinal tract infections.

The academic staff of the department was also actively involved in elimination of diphtheria (1993-1994) and amoebiasis (1997-1998) epidemics. Since 1999 the head of the department has been Prof. Elza Vashakidze. The department has a three-year residency program "Infectious Diseases".

As soon as the coronavirus pandemic started, the academic staff of the department moved to the First University Clinic and established a COVID clinic. The head of the contagious diseases department became Prof. Elza Vashakidze. In 2021 the work of the clinic was evaluated by the World Health Organization (WHO) experts, headed by MD Knut Taxbo.

The academic staff of the department is involved in diverse international research activities, projects, conferences and forums.