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NewsPaper



Tbilisi State Medical University A Regional Hub in Medical Education

An International Association for Medical Education (AMEE) International Networking Center in Georgia was founded at Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU). This is a third center in the World.

The ceremony was opened by Professor Zurab Vadachkoria, Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University. Prof. Vadachkoria noted, „Georgia has become the International Center for Medical Education and it is one of the most important events on the way to integration to European Higher Education Area. As Tbilisi State Medical University is internationally recognized, successful Higher Education Institution oriented to implementation of modern teaching and learning methods in medical education, AMEE made decision to establish the third, South-East European Regional Center in Georgia, at TSMU“.

From 2000 TSMU actively cooperates with AMEE in the field of development new approaches to curriculum planning and teaching methods, publishing joint research articles and participation in annual conferences and workshops. TSMU was also a member of MEDINE-Thematic Network aimed to harmonize

medical education with Bologna Process, implemented one of the most successful TEMPUS projects, “Modernizing Undergraduate Medical Education in EU Eastern Neighboring Area” (MUMEENA), developed innovative medical educational model in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine. Establishment of AMEE International Networking Center at TSMU will enhance partnership with the world leaders in medical education and widen international recognition of TSMU where nearly 2400 international students study from 71 countries. The main goal of the AMEE International Networking Center in Georgia is sharing modern methodologies in medical education and delivering professional trainings to academic and administrative staff and medical experts. It is the second opportunity for Georgia to become a Regional International Hub in Medical Education. The first recognition of Georgian Medical Education was initiated in November 2018, when the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement of Georgia was granted with a status of Accreditation Agency by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

The Prime Minister of Georgia talked about inter-

national recognition of Georgian Education and emphasized the importance of opening the AMEE Center for further development of Medical Education in Georgia. Mikheil Batiashvili, the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia and Professor Trevor Gibbs, AMEE Committee Member and WFME Consultant in Medical Education addressed the audience. During the event video of Professor Ronald Harden, the General Secretary of AMEE was shown. At the end of the ceremony MOU was signed between two institutions (TSMU and AMEE).

A five-days training course started on May 20, led by Professor Trevor Gibbs, AMEE Committee Member and WFME Consultant in Medical Education (Since August 2019 - AMEE President). After completion four ESME full-time courses, participants will be awarded with Internationally Recognized Certificate of Specialist in Medical Education. Training courses in Assessment Methods, Clinical Teaching, Simulation-based Healthcare Instructions, Educational Leadership and Management will be organized in the nearest future. Journal “Medical Teacher” will be published in Georgian language.





The Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) is the main center of higher medical education in Georgia, with an almost hundred-year history. Actually, higher medical education in Georgia is of the same age as well. It is noteworthy to emphasize that thousands of our university graduates continue their professional careers in many leading clinics and institutions of Georgia, Europe and the world as a whole.

The core role and responsibility of TSMU in providing population health care activities is of great importance and respectable. While accomplishing this important mission TSMU is guided by the fundamental principles of its activities

- Academic Quality of knowledge and research;
- Democracy;
- Electiveness and transparency of the managing bodies;
- Academic freedom of both students and academic staff.

Successful undergraduate, postgraduate, continuous professional development programs, Master's, doctoral courses and higher vocational education programs make TSMU attractive for prospective students not only in Georgia, but 71 other countries around the world.

The main guiding principles of TSMU activities are fully compatible with the approaches and strategies of the European educational system, and moreover, TSMU, to some extent, is involved in the development of these principles.

TSMU is a full member of the European Education Area that means its active involvement in functioning of this educational system, determining directions for development and implementation, establishing free and close scientific and academic relationships with the educational, scientific and clinical centers throughout the world.

Successful implementation of internationally recognized standards and approaches for medical education at the University promotes development of traditional educational programs, while the collaboration with foreign partners, long-term academic experience and worth-while efforts to address modern challenges to medical services thrusts us to take bold and innovative steps forward.

TSMU runs bachelor's, master's, doctoral and professional education Programs. In recent years new academic programs have been added:

- American MD (USMD) Program – developed with Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta, U.S.)
- Joint International Bachelor's Program in "Public Health and Management" with UniMan Academy of Management and Performance (France). Upon completion, two - Georgian and French diploma will be issued;
- Joint International Master's Program in "Public Health Management and Health Policy" at TSMU Faculty of Public Health.
- Joint Georgian-Austrian Bachelor of Nursing program with Tyrol Hospitals Union - the Western Education Centre (AZW), allowing Georgian nurses to pursue proficiency in accordance with European standards and gain international experience in the Clinics of Austria.

At present, TSMU is the partner of more than 120 universities and University Clinics from 40 countries worldwide; collaboration with them is regulated on the basis of bilateral agreements and / or joint international projects (ERASMUS +, MEVLANA, HORIZON 2020). Within the frames of the programs, every year more than 300 students, academic and administrative staff of TSMU participates in short- or long-term international mobility programs at undergraduate, master and doctoral levels mobility.

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TSMU attaches great importance to a student-centered educational system in comparison with a teacher-oriented system (not time-dependent and, a priori, based on the assumption that professor/teacher knows what to teach). Student-centered approach pays much more attention to curriculum planning and is focused on students' needs in terms of their future social activities and professional career. Therefore, one of the mechanisms of evaluation of educational programs and, most importantly, the performance indicators, is a study of assessment of students and graduates and critical analysis of the study results.

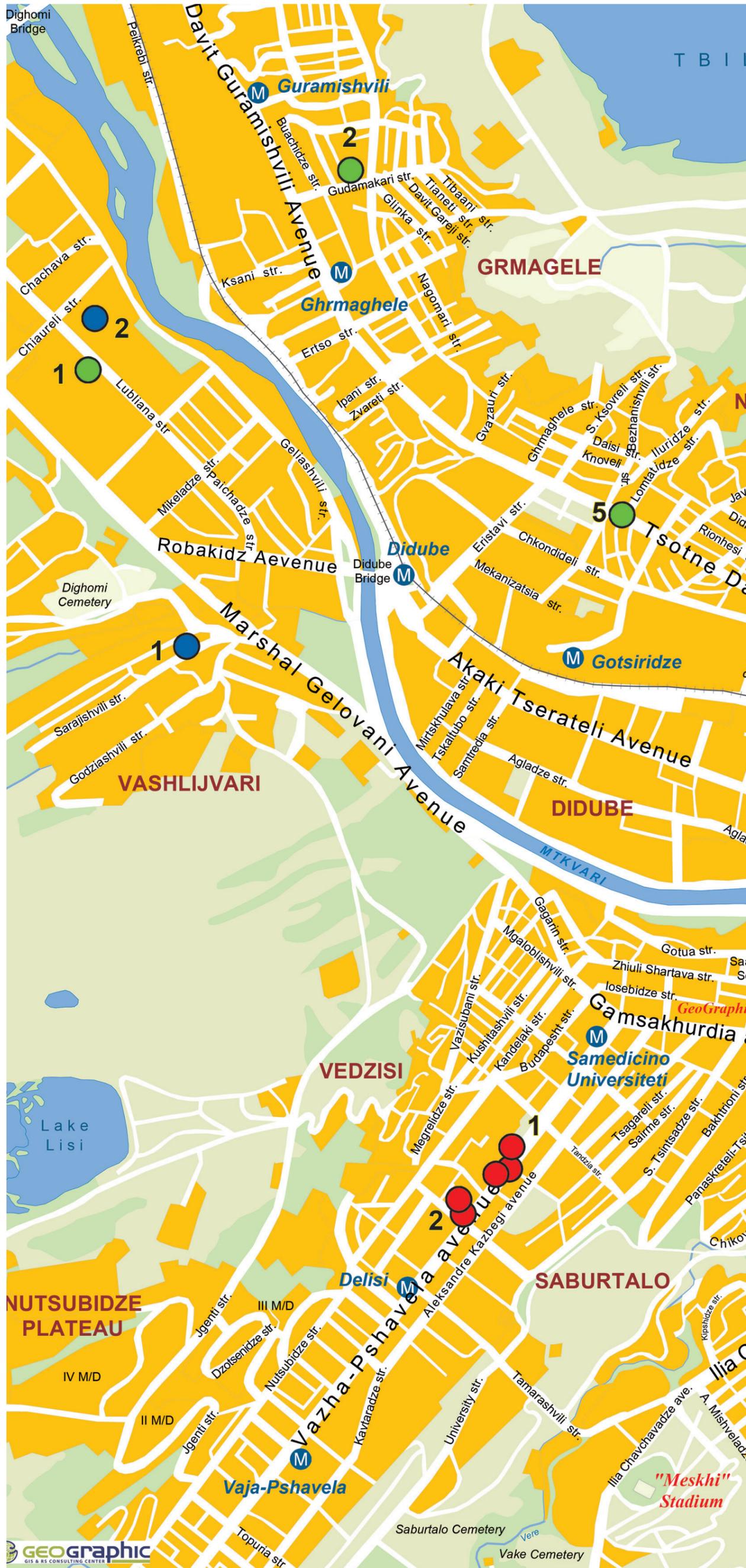
For this purpose, the Department of Quality Assurance has worked out a number of target questionnaires and criteria, in the use and interpretation of which the students are actively involved.

All the above-mentioned determines the proper planning of the curriculum, the effectiveness of its implementation, existence of the chain of study and evaluation processes of the results using the objective, measurable criteria.

Each member of our university communities - faculty, administration, students and alumni - had, has and will have the opportunity to make own contribution in professional improvement and development of the Tbilisi State Medical University as a whole.

Once your choice falls to join Tbilisi State Medical University academic community, be sure you will be taken into care by academic staff, and the administration of TSMU as well as the cohort of graduates and the students of TSMU who are ready to help you create future and successfully realize your dreams.

Professor Zurab Vadachkoria
MD., Ph.D.
The Rector of Tbilisi State Medical University





The Clinics of Tbilisi State Medical University

Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU) is an Autonomous institution whose main goal is to conduct higher education activities, scientific research and medical-clinical activities. In this regard, TSMU is the only higher education institution in Georgia with 5 university clinics: the first university clinic of TSMU, the academic clinic of TSMU G. Zhvania Pediatrician, TSMU Urushadze Dental Clinic, TSMU # 1 and # 2 Clinics.

All university clinics of Tbilisi State Medical University are high-tech and multi-profile medical and diagnostic institutions whose main priority is students' practical training with participation in medical activities, which determines their level of training, knowledge and skills.

All above mentioned is unthinkable without high standard medical and educational bases; The high quality and research of the patient's bed / seat directly and clinical activity is based on contemporary, assertions based on medicine-based standards, as a whole, the TSMU graduates will be able to get involved in the subsequent diploma in further education and continuous professional development processes and develop in dignified, skillful and competitive specialists.

History of Tbilisi State Medical University and higher medical education as well count approximately 10 decades in Georgia.

100-year history of higher medical education in Georgia, in fact, represents the history of Tbilisi State Medical University's development – establishment of medical faculty in Tbilisi State Medical University in 1918, separation of this faculty in 1930 and establishment of medical institution upon it, transformation of the institution into Tbilisi State Medical University in 1992.

Medical faculty, medical institution, medical university - those are the stages of higher medical education development in Georgia.

Along this very path „leaping in the future with traditions“ Tbilisi State Medical University was and remains the leader educator and the heart of medical education and science in Georgia.

In 2006, State Medical Academy of Georgia joined Tbilisi State Medical University, in 2007 – State Physical Culture and Physical Culture and Rehabilitation Faculty of Sports Academy. The merge of such traditional medical and educational schools united the pre-graduate and post-graduate education in Tbilisi State Medical University, stimulated the harmonious development of traditional medical and natural science specialties and created opportunity to found new medical schools.

Nowadays, more than 8,000 students are studying on five faculties, three stages of higher education in Tbilisi State Medical University among which more than 2,300 are international students from 65 countries of the world.

Tbilisi State Medical University constantly undergoes development process, implements contemporary and high standards of education in medical field. Due this very reason Tbilisi State Medical University is the most demanded institution among top-ranked entrants.

Georgian Medea is not only considered a pioneer of cosmetic, hematology, surgery, toxicology and in other areas, but also the founder of the way for effective implementation of main principle of modern medicine and the donor of world root — medicine!

Hipocrate seems to visit Colchis himself. He describes this country, its rich flora and fauna. Appearance of the local population, spread diseases. His visit to colchis must not be accidental. It seems to be target, aiming at study the local resources and healing traditions

Georgian Medicine, its historical roots and principles are the world-level brands equal to Georgian singing, dance, wine, poetry...

The ancient Colchis-Iberian medicine originates in the remote historical past and for us it is associated with Argonautics, the legendary King of Colchis - Aetes and his daughter — Medea.

Producing poison by concentrating the biologically active substances of medicinal plants, and subsequently the preparation of drugs by their dilution was the knowledge long ago belonged to the Colchis-Iberians, and it became known to Europe only in the first century BC after defeat king of Pontus (Colchi) – Mithridates VI and his books appeared in Rome. Kurt Joachim Sprengel (Kurt Polycarp Joachim Sprengel 1766 - 1833) described this medical wisdom as Cura Mediana, or “Medicatory Treatment”. Apparently, the word “medicine” comes from the name of the Colchis woman.

It should be noted that ecclesiastical and secular medicine together represented a cohesive whole and it is impossible to separate them. It is noteworthy to emphasize that “healing the sicknesses” was within the competence of clergy members and

priests and served as the “first aid” of medical care. There were also centers for medical education and knowledge sharing.

Georgian medical manuscripts cover the period from the early medieval period until the mid-twentieth century and belong to different types of valuable written monuments. Among them are the textbooks designed for the persons intending to be acquainted with medical care. The number of manuscripts is 526, and in this respect Georgia is among the countries with rich medical traditions.

Among them are the manuscripts of epochal character such as: the 10th century monument “Ustoro Karadini”; “Book an Medicine” (13th century); Zaza Panaskerteli” Medicinal Book – Karadini” (15th century) and Davit Bagrationi “Yadigar Daudi” (16th century).

“The Catalog of Georgian Medical Manuscripts” was published in 2017 (chief editor - Professor Ramaz Shengelia). A few similar catalogs with only technical description of the manuscripts have been published.

As for the descriptive scale form and searching resources, including detailed technical description of each manuscript, the list of illnesses, syndromes and symptoms involved and vocabulary of applied medical plants, with modern Latin binary nomenclature and Georgian botanical equivalents, the current work does not have analogues.

Acquiring professional knowledge necessary for providing medical activities was possible at the theological- educational centers.

For our ancestors, the doctor and philosopher were the same, there was no difference between them: “there was nothing to rivalry with each other”. A perfectly educated person was choosing the way himself: to carry out practical activities for spiritual and physical health of human being or to enrich Georgian culture with only theoretical treatises.

There were many Georgian theological and educational centers, both in Georgia and abroad.



VIII-IX cc. - One of the most important places in the cultural-educational life of Khandzta and Tao-Klarjeti was taken by medical care. In this regard, it is worth to mention the work by Grigol Khandzteli and his disciples. In addition to practical activities, a significant amount of time was devoted to medical-literary and translational work;

- The Georgian Monastery of Romana (IX) - the first Georgian monastery in Europe, built in the Bosphorus Strait, close to Istanbul (Constantinople), a monument to a great “non-silver (free) healer” - St. Ilarion Kartveli;
- Monastery of Iviron, in Holy Mount Athos - From XI century, there were three hospitals: Somatic, Mental and Specialized Hospital – Leprosy;
- Ulumbo Mountain Monastery (Bithynia) - Georgian theological, educational and medical center in Asia Minor, where Georgians actively work since the IX century, it should be noted that the Georgian colony was established by miracle-worker Ilarion Kartveli;
- Jerusalem - Laura of Holy Father Sabbas - VI-VII cc and Jvari Monastery - XI c. - Laura of Mar Saba (VI-VII cc) gives the Georgian monks the most interesting medical advices. Finally the author adds that if you cannot handle the illness, go to the city and bring the doctor... that sums all it up.

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 opportu-



nities 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, including - 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. 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.