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124 BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATED FROM THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A ceremony for the successful graduation of Bachelor's and Master's degree students in the specialties of the Faculty of Public Health was held on April 5 at *Magnum Auditorium* at the Second Clinical Base *Prof. Dr. M. Ganchev* at the Medical University - Pleven. Master's and Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 124 graduates of the faculty - 21 Master's in *Public Health and Health Management* specialty; 40 Master's and 25 Bachelor's in the *Health Care Management* specialty; 24 Bachelor's in the specialty *Medical Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy* as well as 14 Bachelors of *Public Health Conservation and Control*.

The opening speech was made by the Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Prof. Dr. Silvia Yankulovska, MD, who presented the academic management: the Rector of the University, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, DSc; Prof. Dr. Margarita Alexandrova - Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs; Prof. Dr. Zdravka Radionova - Vice-Rector of Quality and Accreditation; Assoc. Prof. Galya Stavreva - Vice-Rector of Research and the Vice-Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Tsetsa Doychinova. Guest of the ceremony was His Excellency, Mr. Eric Lebedel - Ambassador of France to Bulgaria. The celebration was also honored by Academician Bogdan Petrunov - Chairman of the Board of Trustees of



the Medical University - Pleven; Regional Governor Miroslav Petrov; the Mayor of the Municipality of Plevna, George Spartanski; Chairman of the Municipal Council, Martin Mitev; Director of RZI (Regional Health Inspection) - Dr. Atanas Garev; Desislava Pantaleeva - dep. Director of the Regional Health Insurance Fund; Nadia Dimitrova - Chairperson of the Regional Medical Association - Plevna, part of the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals; Chief Nurse of UMHAT "Dr. G. Stranski", Ivayla Petkova and

others. Prof. Dr. Florian Steger and Dr. Marcin Orcherchowski from the University of Ulm, Germany were the special guests at the event.

With great excitement, the graduates of the Faculty of Public Health took the traditional Hippocratic Oath, which would become their guiding star on the path of their professional realization.

The promotion continued with the solemn awarding of Bachelor's and Master's degree diplomas from the Faculty of Public Health. All graduates with a success of over 5.50 received additional certificates of excellence. The ceremony was concluded by a musical greeting from the international students from Japan and Pakistan, majoring in Medicine.

Slavi Yankulovski



'THE BIGGEST HEALTH RESOURCE ARE THE PEOPLE'



Extract from the speech of Prof. Florian Steger, Director of the Institute of History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine, Ulm University, Germany

'Today, medicine is a professional field to which, in addition to patients and physicians, many of the highly qualified and diverse health care providers contribute with their knowledge, skills and abilities. This applies to you who have studied at this famous university.

It has prepared you thoroughly to become rehabilitators, health inspectors, nurses and midwives who are preparing for their role as health managers. You have learned a great deal and are now qualified to work not only in your home country, but also

outside its boundaries, in Europe. Because Europe is the focal point of our common history, it represents the common values we share... In short, all those who care for patients are part of medicine and healthcare. In antiquity, this work was carried out without much tension between the various professional groups and in creative, patient-oriented interaction - and thus remarkably harmonious. In my opinion, this should be a motivation for all of us. After all, people are the biggest health resource. At the heart of our work are the patients for whom all of us, healthcare professionals, care. We must always be aware that we are working together to provide the best care for the patient. Because, above all, first-class medicine means not only high-

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level technology, but also people who care for others, for those who want or need our help, whether this care is ultimately achieved through prevention, through curative or palliative care... The human factor affects us all. It should not only, but above all, be a major resource in the health sector. Let us all note that we need to be mindful of one another when caring for patients! Let us respect others' point of view, support others when they are weaker, and together fulfill the most important task - providing the best care for the patient in a healthcare system characterized by a diversity of different specialists!

Info: Slavi Yankulovski

PROF. DR. GRIGOR GORCHEV WAS BESTOWED WITH THE ORDRE DES PALMES ACADÉMIQUES (THE ORDER OF ACADEMIC PALMS), OFFICER, 2ND CLASS BY THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

On April 5, 2019, the Ceremony for the awarding of Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the specialties of the Faculty of Public Health was preceded by an emblematic event, held for the first time in the history of the Medical University - Pleven - the Bestowment of the Order of Academic Palms to Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, MD, PhD. The prestigious award was presented by His Excellency, Mr. Eric Lebedel, Ambassador of the Republic of France to Bulgaria. "Today, we welcome and acknowledge a worthy scientific career, remarkable for the will to develop gynecological medicine in Bulgaria, the Balkans, on the basis of strong and

long-lasting cooperation with France," the French ambassador stressed. The order is bestowed for excellence in education and for contributing to the international integration of the university by a joint decree of 14 July 2018 by the Prime Minister, based on the proposal of the Minister of Education of France.

The Order of Academic Palms was created on March 17, 1808 by decree of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, and was later introduced in its present form by a decree on October 4, 1955. The distinction was created for university professors, and today it is accessible to all people working in the field of education. It is the oldest modern French award and the highest possible honor for education figures. The violet color of the Order symbolizes the harmony between blue and red, a sign of wisdom, knowledge, tolerance and authority. The Order acknowledges and rewards the work done for the cause of education and training.



THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH HOSTED THE SIXTH EDITION OF THE *DAY OF BIOETHICS*

The Day of Bioethics this year was held under the motto "Clinical Ethics". The forum was opened by Prof. Yankulovska, who after a short presentation of the history of Bioethics Day and the current official guests - Prof. Florian Steger and Dr. Marcin Orzesovski - welcomed Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Stavreva, Vice-Rector of Research, who addressed the attendees. On behalf of the Rector of MU - Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Assoc. Prof. Stavreva emphasized the uniqueness of the scientific event on a national and international scale and the satisfaction of the hosts with the quality of lectures and presentations of the participants over the years. Certificates were given to the two official guests and Prof. Steger was given the floor.

Prof. Steger's lectures presented in a logical sequence the practice of clinical ethical counseling in Germany, the requirements for ethical consultants and

the existing training programs at the Academy of Ethics of Medicine at the Professional Medical Association. His second presentation focused on prenatal diagnosis: methods and benefits, the assumption of the burden created by the birth of a disabled child and the objections to it, the argument of eugenics and the stigmatization of disabled people. The topic provoked intense discussion and was followed with particular interest by midwifery students.

The Day of Bioethics was concluded by a poster session with materials prepared by Bulgarian-language and English-speaking students majoring in medicine. The case studies presented were prepared on the basis of the 4-step principle method and were highly praised by Prof. Steger and Prof. Yankulovska, who moderated the session.

Info: Prof. Dr. Silvia Ynakulovska

THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT UMHAT - PLEVEN RECEIVED A DONATION FROM LYONS CLUB

On 02.03.2019, the Emergency Department of UMHAT Dr. Georgi Stranski - Pleven received a donation - an ultrasound Chison Eco6 from Lyons Club Pleven. The portable Eco6 color Doppler digital ultrasound will be suitable for abdominal ultrasound, AS, urology, cardiology, pediatrics, small organs, vascular and musculoskeletal examinations. This is the largest single donation so far from the Lyons Club Pleven, made under the motto "Time Saves Lives".



MU - PLEVEN REMAINS A VITAL PART OF THE SCIENTIFIC MAP OF BULGARIA

With the assistance of RAC (Regional Academic Center) - Pleven, on February 28, 2019, in the Assembly Hall of the Municipality of Pleven, a Ceremony was held on the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), represented by the President of the BAS, Academician Julian Revalski, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Pleven, Georg Spartanski. The agreement is the second in the joint history of the two institutions and will last for 5 years. It reflects the region's specific interests and needs and intends to deepen cooperation between BAS institutes and local authorities, cultural and educational institutions, businesses, as well as facilitate applications for joint projects.



Later the same day, at the Telecommunication Center of the Medical University - Pleven, Academician Dimitar Dimitrov opened the exhibition "Women in the History of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences" organized by the Scientific Archives of BAS, RAC - Pleven and the Medical University - Pleven. The documentary exhibition is a retrospective view of the topic of women and the place they occupy in the creation, development and establishment of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and all its academic units.

On March 1, 2019, the University of Medicine - Pleven hosted the Day of Biomedicine, which was held under the auspices of the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Academician Julian Revalski and the Mayor of the Municipality of Pleven, Georg Spartanski. The Scientific

Forum is organized by the Regional Academic Center (RAC) - Pleven with the support of BAS and in close cooperation with the National Academic Network. The scientific session was held at the Ambroaz Pare Hall of the Telecommunication Center.

The Day of Biomedicine was also one of the ways to mark and celebrate the 45th anniversary since the establishment of Medical University - Pleven. For the last 45 years, the University has made many remarkable achievements - from just a Regional Faculty of Medicine, belonging to the structure of the Medical Academy - Sofia, it has become a leading medical center as well as a focal point in the world of robotic surgery. Lecturers at the conference were world-class scientists, academicians from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, BAS members and professors: Academician Damyan Damyanov, Chairman of the Assembly of Academics and BAS Members, Academician Alexander Alexandrov, Academician Atanas Atanasov, Academician Dimitrov, Corr. Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, MD, Director of the Research Institute at MU - Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD, Rector of the University, Prof. Din Garabed Minasyan - IKI, BAS. Official guests of the event were Academician Bogdan Petrunov, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of MU - Pleven and Nikolay Chernozemski, Chairman of the International Research Foundation "Hasumi - Bulgaria".



CLASS 2019 OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS GRADUATED AT MU-PLEVEN

On April 12, 2019, at the Magnum Hall of the Second Clinical Base for yet another year, the Faculty of Medicine organized a solemn graduation ceremony for the international doctors from Class 2019. The event was attended by the relatives of the graduates, professors and students of the university. In charge of the ceremony was Prof. Angelina Stoyanova, Head of the Center for International Students, while the Academic leadership was represented by the Rector of MU - Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Prof. Margarita Alexandrova and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Asparuh Asparuhov.

After successfully completing a 6-year training course in Medicine, entirely in English, 64 international students from the 2013-2019 Graduate Class in Medicine have acquired a Master's degree and a Doctor's degree.

The young international graduates are nationals of 12 countries - Turkey, Greece, Germany, Nigeria, Sweden, Serbia, France, Pakistan, Spain, Kazakhstan, Denmark and the United Kingdom. With the highest success score of an Excellent (5.94), Dr. Azhar Khan from the UK became the 2019 class valedictorian.

This year, Medical University of Pleven maintained the tendency for a high admission of international students, aiming to study "Medicine" in Pleven. On February 18, 2019, the academic year 2018/2019 starts for the newly admitted 250 international students from 28 countries, most of them European. For a second consecutive year, the highest number of students come from Italy (120), followed by citizens of the United Kingdom (34), India (20), Sweden (7), Canada (6) and Japan (9). For the first time, students from the Republic of Cape Verde have enrolled at the university.

Info: Velins Dukova



MEDICAL COLLEGE PLEVEN ORGANIZED A CONCERT, TITLED TOGETHER FOR OUR DREAMS

The traditional Together for Our Dreams concert, dedicated to the World Day of Social Work, was organized for another consecutive year by the Medical College at the Medical University of Pleven under the patronage of the Mayor of Pleven, Georg Spartanski. This year, it was held on March 19, 2019 in Katya Popova Hall at 17.00. The concert was part of the events dedicated to Action Week (March 18-22, 2019) under the worldwide motto "Promoting the importance of relationships between people".

Stage performers at the concert included users of social services



from all age groups in the city of Pleven and Pleven Municipality: Protected Homes for Mentally Handicapped People - Pleven; six family-type accommodation centers in Pleven municipality; Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration - Pleven; Family

Friendly Accommodation Center - Pleven; CSST 2 Social Services Complex - Pordim, Pordim Municipality; Social Services Complex, Protected Housing - Zgalevo Village, Pordim Municipality; Aleko Konstantinov Professional High School of Tourism - Pleven, Social Work with Children and Families at Risk specialty; Dance group "Vartyanka" - Pleven as well as the talented nine-year-old performer Dorothea Ivanova Taneva.

Info: Velins Dukova

Interview



INTERVIEW WITH ASSOC. PROF. ISKRA PETKOVA

Assoc. Prof. Iskra Petkova, Lecturer at Medical College - Pleven, specialty Social Activities, in an interview with FOCUS Radio on the occasion of Social Worker's Day and Together for Our Dreams concert

Radio FOCUS: Assoc. Prof. Petkova, how long have you been a part of the organization of the Together for Our Dreams concert?

Assoc. Prof. Iskra Petkova: This is a concert that is being held for the seventh consecutive year. We now consider it a tradition. It all started as a result of a study project within the Social Activities specialty of the Medical College at Medical University - Pleven. Back then, the students working on the project explored the interests and needs of the users of social services in Pleven. As one of the activities of the project, we decided to create this concert seven years ago, dedicated to the Day of Social Workers, in order to enable the users of social services to participate. Not only do they show their creativity and their potential, but also use their stage performances to thank the social workers who take care of them on a daily basis. Although we continue to call it a study project, it cannot happen

in the course of one day; it is the fruits of months of work. We also have students from the specialty "Social work with children and families at risk" from Aleko Konstantinov Vocational High School of Tourism helping with the project. The municipality has always been very helpful as well.

Radio FOCUS: What are your impressions of the involvement of students and all other participants in this initiative?

Assoc. Prof. Iskra Petkova: The first year when the idea of implementing such a project was first introduced, there was a moment where we were all a little concerned. At that time, seven students participated in the whole activity, now they are all participating. We have been working with the students for many years, we have a partnership and cooperation contract and work together on various events; we involve them in many joint initiatives. At the concert this year they are working

together with the university students, and they share with them the responsibility for what is happening on stage.

Radio FOCUS: How would you congratulate everyone on this day, celebrating social workers?

Assoc. Prof. Iskra Petkova: The profession of the social worker is as old as the world exists. There will always be a person who needs support and protection and there will always be someone who could give it to them. I know what the young people who choose this profession have to face, the thorny path of the social worker. I love the expression that high heels are for formal occasions but for stable, down-to-earth work one would need comfortable shoes. I wish they would carry this wonderful profession in their hearts, to never stop helping people, because it is more than a job, it is a vocation.

Interview: Violoeta Krasteva, Radio

PROF. DR. SILVIA YANKULOVSKA, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH ATTENDED AN INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CONFERENCE IN ROME

From February 24 to February 27, 2019, the Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Prof. Dr. Sylvia Alexandrova-Yankulovska participated in the International Conference on Robotics in Rome. The Scientific Forum was organized by the Pontifical Academy of Life. Before the forum began, His Holiness, Pope Francis gave an audience in which the Head of the Roman Catholic Church received and congratulated the participants in the conference. Prof. Yankulovska met the Pope as the only representative from Bulgaria. She participated in a joint development project with the Rector of Medical University - Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov on the topic "Ethics of Robotic Surgery in Bulgaria". The forum provided an opportunity to present the project for the construction of the Center for Competence in Personalized Medicine, 3D and Telemedicine, Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Leonardo da Vinci. The personal discussion with Professor Barbara Bass of the Huston Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and



Education, as well as the participation of Prof. Yankulovska in all the discussions in the three main parts of the conference, contributed to the accumulation of significant scientific material in the field of robotics.

PROF DR SILVIA YNAKULOVSKA WAS INVITED AS A GUEST LECTURER AT THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



In the period from 7th to 13th April 2019, Prof. Dr. Silvia Alexandrova-Yankulovska, MD, took part of a mobility Erasmus program at the Medical University - Warsaw, where she was invited as a guest lecturer.

Professor Yankulovska held working meetings with the Erasmus Coordinator of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Medical University of Warsaw - Dr. Malgozhata Vitkovska - with a view to extending the terms of the contract with the Medical University - Pleven and to include mobility opportunities with the Faculty of Public Health, as the contract currently provides for mobility only for medical students and nurses.

The Medical University has several campuses, with Professor Yankulovska visiting the main campus on Zwirki i Wigury Street. In addition to the facilities and the structure of the administrative part, she also visited the current exhibition, located in the lobby of the Rectorate building and titled Women in Medicine as well as the University Pediatric Hospital, located within the same campus.

Professor Yankulovska's visit continued with an academic lecture, focusing on the topic of Hospice Care Management and Ethics, delivered to 1st year students in Public Health Master's degree program.

Professor Yankulowska also took the opportunity to attend an open lecture by another visiting lecturer from Charite University Hospital, Berlin, Prof. Thomas Schalke. The lecture was on "History of Medicine and Organization of the Museum of History of Medicine in the Hospital".

Teaching opportunities at academic institutions abroad have a unique potential to intensify and reform the exchange of academic and research experience and the Public Health Faculty is motivated to continue its active work towards European integration and international mobility.

Info:

Prof. Dr. Silvia Yankulovska, DM



A DAY OF OPEN DOORS AT MU-PLEVEN

On Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 1.30 pm the traditional Student Candidate Day was held at the Medical University - Pleven. For yet another year, as part of the 2019 Student Candidate Campaign under the motto "We Succeed Together," the university opened its doors to welcome high school students from the city and the region as well as their teachers and parents.

All student candidates who chose to focus on medicine, pharmacy or other health professions had the opportunity to get acquainted with the modern base and high-tech solutions that only higher education can provide. The conditions for the application

and the scoring system, as well as the schedule of the entry exams were presented by the

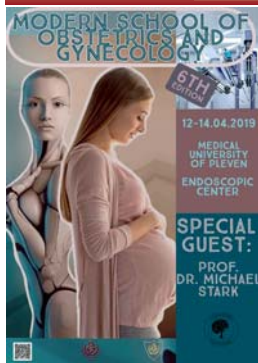


Chairs of the committees for the evaluation of the exam works in both biology and chemistry.

Students and faculty members welcomed the high-school students and guests on the Student Candidate Day in the lobby of the Telecommunication Endoscopy Center at Medical University - Pleven. The event included a visit to the Museum of Minimally Invasive Surgery and showcasing of the da Vinci Robotic System in the lobby of the center.

After the presentation of the 3D Virtual Dissection Table and the 3D Training Studio, the event continued with a meeting with the most distinguished faculty members and students for 2018 and ended with a prepared quiz with a prize-pool for the candidate students.





VI MODERN SCHOOL FOR OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY WAS HELD AT MU-PLEVEN

For the sixth consecutive year, the Association of Students of Medicine in Bulgaria – Pleven branch had the pleasure of presenting a Modern School of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The event this year took place in the period 12-14 April and was under the auspices of the Rector of Medical University – Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD. In three consecutive days Pleven welcomed over 170 young doctors and students from all over the country. For the first time, the student forum was held entirely in English.

Prof. Dr. Michael Stark was an official guest speaker at the event. Prof. Stark is a world-renowned specialist and scientist, especially well-known for his developed Stark laparotomy method, which is used in many reputable clinics around the world. He shared his achievements and experience in the field of obstetrics and gynecology with students, graduate students, doctoral students and specialists from all over the country. Professor Stark's name is also associated with the introduction of the gold standard for Caesar's section.

Leading specialists in the field of obstetrics, gynecology and fetal morphology as Corr. Prof. G. Gorchev, Prof. Dr. S. Tomov, Prof. A. Shterev, Prof. Petya Chaveeva, Assoc. Prof. Stratieva, Prof. Timeva and others were also speakers at the forum.

During the event a scientific session was held with a presentation of students. In it more than 15 active participants presented their projects. For the first time, representatives of the Endometriosis Foundation participated in the forum, presenting the perspective of patients diagnosed with endometriosis.

The purpose of the event was to acquire further knowledge and develop additional skills for the current, contemporary approaches and methods for early diagnosis, prevention and treatment of reproductive diseases and the various pathological conditions associated with them. The participants at the forum had the opportunity to acquire new skills in the field of robotic surgery and to use new advanced techniques and methods during the special practical module.

Info: V.Dukova

IMMUNOLOGICAL DAYS 2019, PLEVEN

With the participation of one of the most famous experts in the world in the field of autoimmunity, Professor Yehuda Schoinfeld, the Eighth International Workshop was held in Pleven. The meeting was held from 10 to 11 April at the Balkan Hotel with the working title "Autoimmunity in 2019 - the Good and Bad News" and took place within the framework of Pleven Immunological Days 2019.

The organizers of the event were the Center for Reproductive Health at the Medical University - Pleven; Medical center "Clinical Institute for Reproductive Medicine" - Pleven; Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski" - Sofia and the Bulgarian Association for Clinical Immunology.



A RARE LIFE-SAVING CARDIOLOGIC OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED AT UMHAT 'HEART AND BRAIN' - PLEVEN

Cardiac surgeons from Pleven saved a patient who had a rare combined blood vessel rupture. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Danov, cardiac surgeon, Medical Director and Head of the Cardiac Surgery Clinic, University Hospital "Heart and Brain" and Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Dimitrov, invasive cardiologist, performed a minimally invasive procedure by implanting a stent. The so-called "hard-team" is always at the hospital, taking around the clock shifts. It was exactly this specialized team that took over and initiated a timely intervention with a stent graft. The subsequent 8-hour long, successful life-saving operation resulted in the successful implanting of a biocative prosthesis.

"Upon performing a control tomography, it appeared that there was a second rupture in the area of □□ the main artery leading to the brain. A secondary surgical intervention would have been extremely difficult to perform," stressed Prof. Vladimir Danov. According to the surgeons who performed the rare operation, such a case is extremely rare in the medical practice.



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