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**LARGE-SCALE PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A CENTER FOR COMPETENCE  
IN PERSONALIZED MEDICINE, 3D AND TELEMEDICINE, ROBOTIC  
AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY WILL BE REALIZED  
BY THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF PLEVEN IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH VARNA MEDICAL UNIVERSITY AND THE INSTITUTE OF ROBOTICS  
AT THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

On 26.07.2018 a contract was signed for the financing of the project BG05M2OP001-1.002-0010-C01 "CENTER FOR COMPETENCE IN PERSONALIZED MEDICINE, 3D AND TELEMEDICINE, ROBOTIC AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY" financed by the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth" as well as the European Regional Fund. The total value of the project is estimated at 23 695 179,29 BGN, of which 20 140 902,40 BGN European Union financing and 3 554 276,89 BGN national co-financing. The project started on 27.07.2018 and the deadline for implementation is 31.12.2023. The leading institution, responsible for the implementation of the project is Medical University - Pleven with its primary partners - Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna and the Institute of System Engineering and Robotics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (ISER-BAS).

The aim of the project is to create an innovative, high-tech competence center in the field of personalized medicine, telemedicine and 3D medicine, robotic and minimally invasive surgery; to achieve excellence in research and training of

specialists; to increase the competitiveness of existing institutions and stimulate entrepreneurship in the region and the country. Over the next 10 years, the center will operate on the basis of a high-tech, innovative infrastructure including equipment and specialized software. This will create opportunities for R & D, transfer of new knowledge and technologies, training of students, graduates, postgraduates and other clinical specialists in the following fields: General Surgery, Gynecology, Urology, ENT, Orthopedics, Pathology, Medical Genetics and others.

Within the Center of Competence, the following departments are going to be set up with the appropriate laboratories: Personalized Medicine, 3D Medicine, Minimal Invasive Surgery (MI) and Robotic Surgery. The expected results and effects of the project implementation are: creation of diagnostic panels for breast cancer, ovarian carcinoma, lung and colon cancer, the most common hereditary diseases for the Bulgarian population and genetic predispositions. Improvement of the possibilities for the prevention of hereditary diseases, based on a personalized

approach to genomic studies of pre-reproductive couples.

Furthermore, a telemedicine center will be established with tele-surgery, telepatology, telemedicine and 3D telegraphy capabilities to consult with other world centers, specializing in trainings and research. Individual orthotics suitable for 3D printing will be developed and patented; tissue transplants will be created with a bio-printer as well as model organs to conduct training on minimally invasive and robot-assisted surgery. A comprehensive process for the research and training of surgeons, young doctors and students will be established and enhanced through 360-degree observation of surgical manipulations in virtual reality. The development and patenting of a robotic surgical simulator and the creation of a training model with the use of organs created by 3D printing are expected.

The implementation of joint research projects developed between the Competence Center and local and national businesses as well as the acquisition of intellectual property rights are planned.



## START OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, 2018/2019 AT MU-PLEVEN

The 2018/2019 academic year began on September 10 with a celebration traditionally held in the Magnum Hall in the Second Clinical Base. The event started with welcoming the 511 freshmen, who received Hippocratic Oath scrolls. Under the sounds of the academic anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*, in the performance of the Municipal Chorus Formation with conductor Anelia Decheva, the Academic leadership was welcomed.

The Rector of the University, Prof. Slavcho Tomov welcomed the newly admitted students with the assurance that their choice was not accidental. Evidence of the prestige and significance of the Medical University - Pleven is another big European project for building a competence center for personalized medicine, 3D and telemedicine, robotic and minimally invasive surgery. "We are the innovating university that does not stop developing and we do it for you, the young people, to

grow up as good doctors, health specialists, but also as good people," Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov pointed out.

Among the official guests were the Mayor of Pleven, Mr. Georg Spartanski, the deputy District Governor, Dr. Krasimir Trifonov, the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Pleven Martin Mitev, the Director of RHIF - Pleven, Dr. Penka Stefanova and Ivaila Petkova, Senior Nurse (Nursing Officer) at UMHAT "Dr. Georgi Stranski".

The first-year students took the academic oath - a ritual introduced on February 19, 2018, and became morally committed to the core values and mission of the University, the Code of Ethics and the best academic traditions. The ceremony ended with a greeting from the Municipal Choir.

## UMHAT 'ST. MARINA' ESTABLISHED THE FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEBRIDGE TO CHINA



On August 23, 2018, through the innovative one-hour telework, the HIFU Center's team at the St. Marina University hospital in Pleven established a connection between Pleven and Chongqing, China. The audience in China watched a live HIFU surgery from Pleven, where, by non-invasive thermal burning, high-focussed ultrasound, a 3-cm myoma node on the wall of the uterus of a Bulgarian patient was eradicated. The telemedicine connection was accomplished thanks to special software that was used for the first time. This is also the first HIFU live surgery, where a transcontinental telebridge takes place in front of an international audience world-wide. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dobromir Dimitrov, head of the HIFU team in Pleven, started the telework with a

presentation of Bulgaria, the city of Pleven, the Medical University of Pleven and UMHAT "St. Marina" - Pleven.

From 23 to 25 August 2018, the Chongqing International Expo Center hosted the Smart China Expo. The forum is organized by several Chinese state institutions: the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Engineering and the Chinese Association of Science and Technology.

Only the HIFU Center in Pleven, Bulgaria and Barcelona, Spain were invited to take part in the event by the radio and TV-broadcasting of HIFU surgery live from Europe to China.

On the official site of the Chinese government, a publication was made, mentioning the participation of HIFU Center "St. Marina"-Pleven with HIFU live surgery in the first transcontinental telebridge at the Smart China Expo:

[http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2018-](http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2018-08/27/content_60486040.htm?bsh_bid=2421223190&from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0)

[08/27/content\\_60486040.htm?bsh\\_bid=2421223190&from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0](http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2018-08/27/content_60486040.htm?bsh_bid=2421223190&from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0)



## MU-PLEVEN HOSTED THE 16<sup>TH</sup> MEDICAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG DOCTORS

From 8 to 13 October 2018 at the Telecommunications Endoscopic Center of MU-Pleven the XVI International Medical Science Conference for Students and Young Doctors (MDSC) was held. The motto of the event was "Nothing to Fear", with initiatives focusing on the latest advances in medicine and pharmacy; on the emergence of Emergency Medical Assistance in Extreme Conditions; discussions on innovative approaches in medical education, science and practice.

The conference was attended by 411 students, PhD students and young doctors from Bulgaria and abroad. Of these, 161 were active participants who presented 96 scientific papers in the form of oral and poster presentations, which were divided into 10 thematic areas. All



medical universities in Bulgaria, as well as scientists from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Slovenia, the Azores, Greece and others, participated in the event.

The opening ceremony of the conference was on 9 October 2018 in the Ambroise Pare Hall. Guests of the event were the Mayor of the Municipality of Pleven, Georg Spartanski; His Excellency, the Ambassador of Japan to Bulgaria, Mr. Masato Watanabe and the guest of honor, Professor David William Cranston, Professor of Surgery at the Department of Surgical Sciences, Newfield, Oxford University, Honorary Urologist Consultant at Oxford University Hospital.

The conference program included lectures of prominent representatives of the field of medical science from both Bulgaria and abroad.



### HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. MASATO WATANABE, THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO BULGARIA VISITED MU-PLEVEN

Within the framework of the XVI International Medical Science Conference for Students and Young Doctors, a meeting of the Rector of MU-Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov and the Ambassador of Japan to Bulgaria, His Excellency, Mr. Masato Watanabe was held. The Japanese ambassador visited MU-Pleven for the first time, the visit itself was mainly due to the good relationship between the university and Japan.

At the meeting of Mr. Masato Watanabe with the Japanese students of

MU-Pleven, issues related to their life and training in Pleven were discussed. The Japanese ambassador underlined the importance of building a bridge

between Japan and Bulgaria, which will serve to further cooperation and the exchange of good practices in both culture and education.

The Ambassador of Japan was welcomed by representatives of the Hasumi Foundation and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - Acad. Bogdan Petrunov, Acad. Blagovest Sendov, Acad. Vodenicharov, Acad. Kolovinski, Prof. Chernozemski and others.



## Interview

## INTERVIEW WITH AIGULYA AKISHEVA, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE XVI INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG DOCTORS (MDSO)

**Q: What are your personal impressions of this year's conference?**

**A:** The conference is traditionally very popular event among medical specialists. This year was no exception. There were participants and guests from every medical university in Bulgaria, as well as scientists from Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Slovenia, the Azores, Greece, etc. The conference was attended by 411 students, PhD students and young doctors from Bulgaria and abroad. Of these, 161 were active participants who presented 96 scientific papers in the form of oral and poster presentations.

**Q: Professor Tomov expressly stated that the initiative for the organization of the conference lies in the students. Can you elaborate on that?**

**A:** It is indeed true that the initiative was initially promulgated by the students of the university back in 2002. Since then the event has been a yearly occurrence. Since the event has grown so big, the preparations for every conference nowadays begin right after the previous conference is over. There is a lot of work to be done, concerning lecturers, formats, workshops, sponsors and the overarching concept of every single conference. The cooperation between the student body and the academic leadership of MU-Pleven is key to the success of the event.

**Q: Which were, in your opinion, the most inspiring lectures and lecturers at the event?**

**A:** It is inspiring to see that every year the level and depth of student papers increase. This is also the opinion of the lecturers and members of the committees, who evaluate the

reports presented. Students from all courses present their work at the conference. Thus, people who had first written a paper in the second year of their course are now fifth and sixth year veterans and are extremely confident to present the research they are involved with.

**Q: What was the most exciting moment for the organizing committee?**

**A:** Undoubtedly, the whole conference is an exciting experience for both the participants and us as organizers. The meeting with guest speakers from Bulgaria and abroad, the ability to communicate with people with so much experience in the different fields of medicine that willingly transfer their knowledge to the new generation is perhaps the most valuable thing we get from this week.

**Q: As you, yourself are a sixth year student and therefore soon to graduate, can you tell us what field of medicine you're considering for your further studies and why?**

**A:** The specialty I chose during my very first year of study was Anesthesiology and Intensive Care. I was lucky to find myself in a place where my interest grew even stronger and I am now fortunate to work at the Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Unit of the 'Heart and Brain' Hospital.

**Q: As you are getting ready for the next conference, which guest lecturer are you most looking forward to invite?**

**A:** We already have several ideas, born out of this year's successful event. We've even taken steps in achieving said goals, but I am still not at liberty to divulge further details as we're still at the starting line. Nothing is set in stone for next year yet.



## THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTED MU-PLEVEN DURING THE GLOBAL ETHICS DAY 2018

On October 17, 2018, Pleven Medical University joined the Global Ethics Day Initiative. The initiative is conducted under the patronage of the *Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs*. This year, a total of 141 institutions from around the world joined, 29 of them from Europe. Medical University - Pleven is the only university in Bulgaria that participated in the Global Ethics Day.

The event was marked with two events: a film night with a follow-up discussion and an ethical quiz through anonymous questionnaires.

In the "Ambroise Pare" Hall of the Telecommunication Center of MU-Pleven, the movie *Outbreak* was screened. The film night included students from Healthcare Management, Medical

Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy, Medicine as well as other members of the academia. After the screening, a discussion was held with the participants in the event, which was led by Assist. Prof. Atanas Anov. The topics discussed covered not only the issues of public health ethics, but also more classic material and problems in bioethics.

An additional initiative within the

annual Global Ethics Day was the quiz on two ethical issues: "What is the most pressing contemporary ethical problem?" And "Which ethical problem is most important to you?". The questions were suggested by the general platform of the event and the quiz was applied all over the world. At MU-Pleven, the quiz included feedback from 155 students from the English-language program of the

Medicine specialty and was carried out in stages between 1 and 12 October 2018.

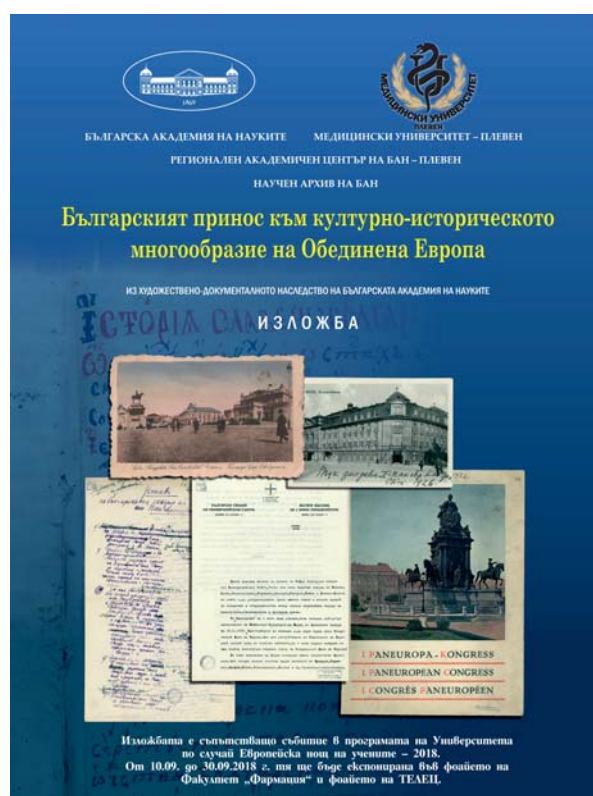
The interest shown by the students further motivated the faculty members of the Public Health Faculty to continue to promote the issues in the different fields of ethics by participating in the Global Ethics Day.



## MU-PLEVEN HOSTED AN EXHIBITION, TITLED "THE BULGARIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL DIVERSITY OF UNITED EUROPE"

Medical University - Pleven, together with the Regional Academic Center of BAS - Pleven hosted the art/ documentary exhibition "The Bulgarian Contribution to the Cultural and Historical Diversity of United Europe". The exhibition is the work of the Science Archive of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and includes 22 posters presenting various documentary testimonies of Bulgarian artists and educators, autobiographical and biographical documents, manuscripts, diaries, memoirs and memories of our scientists; state officials; public, cultural and military figures such as Todor G. Vlaykov, Petko Staynov, Ivan Bures, Hristina Morfova, Dobri Hristov, Nikolay Liliev, Yosip Shtrosmayer and others. Emphasis is put on the idea of a united Europe, illustrated by documents and photographs from the archive of the founder and first chair of the Bulgarian Section of the Pan-European Union - Acad. Ivan Shishmanov.

The event was part of the program of MU-Pleven on the occasion of the 2018 European Science Night.



## THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE DAY EVENT PARTICIPANTS AT MU-PLEVEN MET WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS AND FUTURE BUSINESS PARTNERS



The International Science Day event participants at MU-Pleven met with potential employers and future business partners on 25 October 2018 at the Telecommunication Center venue. The purpose of the event was to present the

scientific and applied work of the participants - PhD students, postgraduates and young scientists - to potential employers and other scientific organizations. The program of the event was divided into two sessions. In the first session, project participants presented their scientific

achievements and developments to potential employers and partners. In the second part, representatives of potential employers - health institutions from all over the country - presented their goals and activities to the members of the target group.

More than 100 participants - PhD students, postgraduates and young scientists from the target group, academic experts from the training courses as well as employers - representatives of hospital and health institutions from the town of Pleven and the rest of the country demonstrated their interest and support of the event.

V. Dukova

## THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT MU-PLEVEN HOSTED A LECTURE AS PART OF THE 'WHAT IS GOOD HEALTH?' PROJECT

The lecture "From the Appendix to the Core, Art and Agency in the Medical Environment" by guest lecturer Phelim McConigly was hosted by the Faculty of Public Health as part of the "What is Good Health?" international project. Lecturer

McConigly is an artist who has been working in Vienna since 2006 and is involved in a number of international projects integrating art into the different spheres of life. The lecture gave an



interesting insight into the healing role of art and the aesthetic aspects of health promotion. Interesting architectural theories were presented on how to organize, fit and use the hospital environment to maximize health effects and avoid potential negative effects. The role of medical museums and the history of medicine for the promotion of such a view was also explored.

Stela Georgieva



## THE REGIONAL BRANCH OF BMA (BULGARIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION) AWARDED SIX DOCTORS WITH THE 'DOCTOR OF THE YEAR' PRIZE

BMA-Pleven awarded six medics with the Doctor of the Year award. Three of them work at "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital. These are: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Kolev, Urologist and Head of Urology Clinic; Dr. Sergey Kostadinov, Forensic Specialist and Dr. Yordan Valeškov, Orthopedic and Traumatology Specialist at Orthopedics and Traumatology Clinic. The prize was also awarded to Dr.

Diana Nedelcheva, a cardiologist from DKC-2 in Pleven and Dr. Galina Tisheva, a personal physician in Pleven. The "You Are Our Future" Prize, which was founded one years ago by Pleven's branch of BMA, goes to Dr. Emilia Ovcharova, who is a neurologist at the Clinic of Neurology at the University Hospital in Pleven.



*Extract from 19 October 2018 interview with Prof. Slavcho Tomov, Rector of MU-Pleven, courtesy of 'Focus' news agency.*

## INTERVIEW WITH PROF. SLAVCHO TOMOV, RECTOR OF MU-PLEVEN



**Focus NA:** Prof. Tomov, 19 October is the day of the Bulgarian doctor. How will MU-Pleven celebrate the occasion?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** The Day of Bulgarian Doctors is one of the most important holidays for every Bulgarian doctor. Every year the branch of the Bulgarian Medical Association at our university hospital invites doctors to an event, during which the most distinguished and trusted medic from the community in the region is chosen. At the

event he or she receives an honorary title. We are all excited, this holiday is important to us and for the self-esteem of the Bulgarian physicians in general, because over the years they have proven that they are extremely good professionals who work at a very high expert level.

**Focus NA:** Speaking of medical professionals, have you noticed any changes among the young representatives of the sphere? Are young Bulgarians

*cont. on p.8*

cont. from p.7

interested in pursuing a medical career?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** Definitely. In recent years we, as a higher education institution, have noticed that a lot of extremely motivated students are targeting the field of medicine. They are well-oriented and know what they want. Those of them who are accepted are also very motivated to learn. These students know what they want to achieve and know how to achieve it, which I personally commend. The time has long since passed when in higher medical schools people would be accepted who are not well-oriented and would either drop out or end up reluctantly working in whatever field they have obtained a diploma for. Nowadays the situation is different, many highly motivated young people come to higher education institutions with high aspirations and even higher capabilities.

**Focus NA:** How many students currently study at MU-Pleven?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** Over 3000. Of the total, most study Medicine with 100-120 newly accepted Bulgarian students on a state grand every year and over 250 International students.

**Focus NA:** What is the current tendency? Is the number of newly-accepted students increasing or decreasing?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** Just this year, we have accepted a total of 500 new students in various different fields and specialties, most of whom do study in the Medicine specialty. However, we offer more than 10 different specialties in many medical fields – Medicine, Public Health, Health Care, etc. Some of the most sought-after specialties continue to be Midwifery, Nursing, Pharmacy, Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy. Speaking of Pharmacy, after establishing the Faculty of Pharmacy at MU-Pleven, this year we have completely filled the capacity of the Pharmacy specialty of 60 newly-accepted students. In general, the statistical tendencies in all Master's degree programs show an increase in interest and, therefore, increase in the number of newly-accepted students.

**Focus NA:** Besides the many different specialties and fields of study that MU-Pleven offers, what opportunities are there for further or additional study?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** Our university strives to keep up with all the latest achievements in science, training, and learning. We aim to be an innovative university and are definitely working in that direction. You probably already know that the Medical University of Pleven is the face of Bulgaria and Southeastern Europe in the world of robotics and robotic surgery. We also focus on tissue bioprinting, 3D-medicine, telemedicine and genotyping. We are working towards innovative medical solutions.

**Focus NA:** Bulgarian universities are often critiqued for not focusing on practical implementations of the theoretical knowledge they emphasize. How much of the curriculum at MU-Pleven focuses on practical implementations of knowledge?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** We emphasize practical tasks in a different way. For example, clinical education and patient contact are crucial for our clinical disciplines. We already have a second university hospital that provides its base for such training. The accreditation of a third university hospital is forthcoming as the capacity of the university requires it. What is more important is that the university invests in modern training methods with simulators. Several such simulators have already been purchased at the Telecommunication center and a new Respiratory Center will be opened next year, again equipped with simulators for practical application of acquired knowledge.

**Focus NA:** In your opinion, how many of the newly-graduated young doctors from MU-Pleven remain to practice their craft in Bulgaria?

**Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, MD:** The majority of graduates of MU-Pleven remain and work in Bulgaria. There is, indeed, a tendency for young Bulgarian doctors to leave Bulgaria for other countries in the EU and practice there, but the statistics show that roughly 60% of our graduates remain here.



## A SURGEON FROM PLEVEN WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF BSS

From 4 to 7 October 2018, in the "Golden Sands" resort, the XVI National Congress of Surgery was held. With a strong majority vote, it was decided that the Chair of the Bulgarian Surgical Society (BSS) would be Prof. Dr. Dimitar Stoykov, PhD, who is Deputy Rector of Pleven Medical University and Head of the Abdominal Surgery Clinic at the University Hospital "Dr. Georgi Stranski" Pleven.



## THE FIRST 'ANATOMY OF BUSINESS' CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT MU-PLEVEN

The 'Anatomy of Business' Conference, which took place on September 29th, was held at Ambroise Pare Hall at the Medical University in Pleven. The event was the first of its kind in Pleven, with the goal of showing the functioning of business as a whole and complete organism.

The conference lasted more than 10 hours. The closing speech was made by the President of JCI Pleven, Georgi Prusiiski who expressed his gratitude to all those present and expressed the hope that this would not be the only event of this type in Pleven.





## THE 'WORLD HEART DAY' CAMPAIGN WAS HELD IN PLEVEN

On 29 September, the World Heart Day campaign was launched, lasting a whole month. With the support of the Institute of Health Education under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Snezhana Tisheva - Head of the Department of Cardiology, Pulmonology and Endocrinology at MU-Pleven, as well as with the support of the Municipality of Pleven, free counseling of patients diagnosed with cardiac failure was held. The examinations were designed for patients with diagnosis and



with complaints of dyspnoea, leg swelling, fatigue and palpitations.

"The Center for Heart Failure is a functional structure. We build it with the ambition to assist patients by training them when they are hospitalized to take better care of themselves," Prof. Tisheva said. Timely self-monitoring by patients further facilitates the work of cardiologists for rapid response in cases of heart failure.



## FREE TUBERCULOSIS EXAMINATIONS WERE HELD AT MU-PLEVEN

The examinations were carried out in the Department of Dispensary Surveillance of Patients with Pneumo-physiatric diseases at the University Hospital "Dr. Georgi Stranski" - Pleven. The "Open Doors Week" campaign at MU-Pleven started on September 25th and lasted until September 28th. The initiative is implemented under the Program "Improving the Stability of the National Tuberculosis Program" at the Ministry of Health, funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The annual event included tuberculosis examinations that have proven its effectiveness in raising public awareness of the disease and providing free access to medical services. During the "Open Door Week", anybody who wanted a screening on the risk of tuberculosis was examined through questionnaire and consultation.



ОКТОМВРИ Е  
МЕСЕЦ ЗА БОРБА С  
РАКА НА ГЪРДАТА



## CTOGETHER AGAINST BREAST CANCER' STUDENT CAMPAIGN AT MU-PLEVEN

During the World Breast Cancer Month on October 16, 2018, a campaign titled "Together Against Breast Cancer" was held in Asclepius Hall, MU-Pleven. This year, ASMB students presented the disease in an interactive way and focused on ways to prevent and treat it.



## OPEN DOORS DAY AT MU-PLEVEN'S LIBRARY

After the conclusion of the student candidate campaign for Bulgarian students, on October 6 and 7 the library of MU-Pleven held "Open Doors Day" for first-year students. The event was held for the fifth consecutive year, with students having the opportunity to get acquainted with the Library's reference information. Searching through the e-catalog, creating a username and password to re-enroll books were the key moments of the initiative.

For international students, the event is held in February, when the student candidate campaign for international students takes place at MU-Pleven.



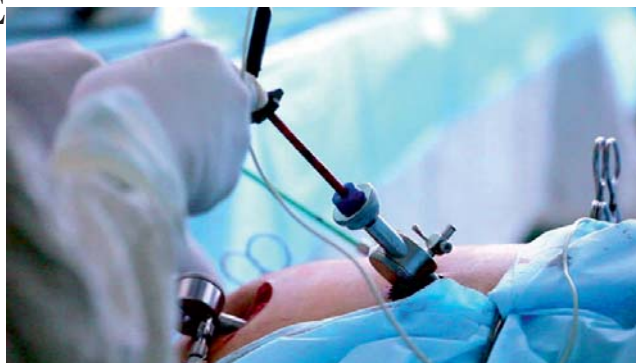
A charity campaign under the slogan "Give a Hand, Give a Smile" took place from 10 to 13 September. The organizers were Chennai Sadak, a 6-year student of the Faculty of Medicine, Elif Zekerieva, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Pharmacy Faculty and students from Pleven Medical College, together with Baba Yaga Children's Club. Together they realized their dream of making the children from the centers with special educational needs in Pleven and the surrounding towns, as well as the children from kindergartens in Nikopol municipality feel special and loved. Chennai, who is very pleasant and casual during our conversation, talks about the many charity initiatives of the students from MU-Pleven, of which she is also a part. It is lucky that the humanitarian profession she chose creates a general humane attitude towards people's lives. As part of the Association of Student-Medics in Bulgaria, she has been involved in many student initiatives related to breast cancer prevention, AIDS prevention, as well as the "Teddy Bear" campaign. However, the idea of this new initiative is entirely hers.

## CHARITY CAMPAIGN AT MU-PLEVEN



## SURGEONS AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL "DR. GEORGI STRANSKI" – PLEVEN RECEIVED CERTIFICATES AFTER COMPLETING A COURSE IN LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY IN FRANCE

Five doctors returned to Pleven after an one-week course in Strasbourg, France. Dr Dobromir Nguyen, Dr. Emil Filipov, Dr. Irina Dekova, Dr. Kiril Nedyalkov and Dr. Anislav Gaberski are doctors from First Surgical Clinic, Department of Purulent Septic Surgery, who completed Laparoscopic Surgery in Strasbourg. In their practice, young doctors have specializations related to laparoscopic and robotic surgery. The Stuttgart Training Center in Strasbourg, France, is the largest in the world where young doctors are trained by leading specialists. This raises the qualification of hospital staff at UMHAT "Dr. Georgi Stranski", the largest in Northern Bulgaria, the second largest in the country, and the only one in Northern Bulgaria which allows patients to be reviewed and urgently operated by trained and certified specialists.

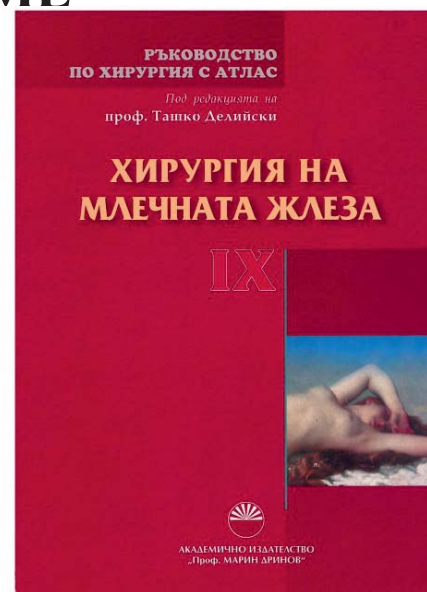
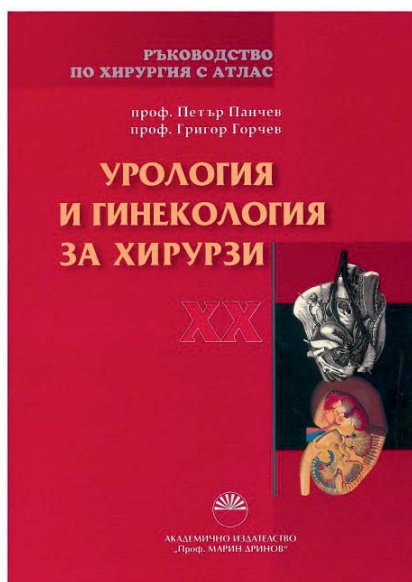


## LEADING EXPERTS AT MU-PLEVEN PARTICIPATE IN THE CREATION OF MULTI-VOLUME SURGERY TEXTBOOK

On September 26, 2018 in Sofia the final presentation of the multidisciplinary "Surgery Manual", edited by Academician Damyan Damyanov was held. The organizers were Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgarian Surgery Society, Publishing House of BAS "Marin Drinov".

311 are the Bulgarian surgeons, anesthetists and specialists in other medical fields who have taken part in the 21-volume Surgery Manual and the total volume of the text with a professional atlas in each volume is 6734 pages.

Leading experts from the Medical University - Pleven participated in some of the volumes. Volume XX - Urology and Gynecology for Surgeons is dedicated to surgical diseases of the genitor-urinary system. Prof. Grigor Gorchev, Ph.D contributed to this volume. Volume IX - Surgery of the Mammary Gland is under the editing of Prof. Tashko Delliyski, PhD.



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