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p. 2

## 122 FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH BACHELORS AND MASTERS GRADUATED ON WORLD HEALTH DAY



p. 23

## "SAINT ELISAVETA" MEDICAL CENTER- PLEVEN MARKS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH A SCIENTIFIC FORUM AND A CONCERT

p. 3



## PLEVEN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTHCARE FOR STUDENTS, WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

p. 4

Т. Делийски  
ОПЕРАТИВНА,  
ОБЩА И СПЕЦИАЛНА  
ХИРУРГИЯ. ХИРУРГИЧНИ ГРИЖИ



Катедра по Сестрински хирургични грижи,  
МУ-Плевна  
ИЦ МУ-Плевна Плевна, 2017

A special event was the presentation of the new textbook "Operative, general and special surgery. Surgical care" written up by a team from the Department of Surgical Nursing, headed by Prof. d-r Tashko Deliyiski

## MU-PLEVEN ACHIEVEMENTS AT FIRST NATIONAL STUDENT FESTIVAL OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

p. 5



## PLEVEN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY HOSTED DAY OF BIOETHICS FOR THE FOURTH TIME

p. 4



## KNEE JOINT ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY COURSE HELD FOR A THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR AT MU-PLEVEN

p. 6



## PROF. DR. SLAVCHO TOMOV WAS RE-ELECTED RECTOR OF THE PLEVEN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

The Pleven Medical University General Assembly of 16 March 2017 re-elected Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov Rector of the University with a majority of 154 votes.

During his second term (2017-2021) Prof. Tomov intends to continue his policy of establishing and developing the University's innovative image and as a hub for scientific infrastructure and research through the adoption of high-tech modern concepts to advance medicine, human health and quality of life.

The "We Succeed Together" campaign, which aims to attract smart and motivated candidate-students, will remain a priority with regards to education. MU-Pleven strives to establish itself as an educational and health center in both Bulgaria and Europe, attracting more and more Bulgarian and foreign students, doctoral students and specialists. Effective, dynamic and adaptive management and improvement/development are the foundations on which the institute for higher learning will become a hub for innovation for graduate, post-graduate and further studies.



## 122 BACHELORS AND MASTERS FROM THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATED ON WORLD HEALTH DAY

An official ceremony was held on 7 April (International Day of the Health Worker) to celebrate the graduation of Bachelor and Master students of the Faculty of Public Health. The event was held in the "Magnum" hall of the "Prof. Dr. M. Ganchev" second clinic of the Medical University. Among the 122 graduates were 21 Masters in Public Health and Health Management, 35 Masters and 31 Bachelors in Healthcare Management, 19 Bachelors in Medical Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy and 16 Bachelors in Protection and Control of Public Health.

Prof. Dr. Silviya Yankulovska, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, opened the ceremony and introduced Rector, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, and vice dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Tsetsa Doychinova. The ceremony was also attended by Prof. Dr. Margarita Aleksandrova, vice rector for education, Prof. Dr. Zdravka Radionova, vice rector for quality and accreditation, Prof. Dr. Savelina Popovska, vice rector for European integration and international cooperation, and the director of the Medical College, assoc. prof. Dr. Evgeniya Barzashka. Among the guests were Mario Todorov, Pleven regional governor, Martin Mitev, director of NHIF, Dr. Ivan Yordanov, director of the food safety regional directorate, and others.

Dr. Els Maeckelberghe, Doctor in Theology and senior lecturer of Ethics in Medicine at the University Medical Center at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, was a special guest at the ceremony.

Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov welcomed graduates and guests. In his speech he wished all health professionals a strong spirit and optimism. "You have dedicated yourself to a mission and I am certain that you will make the necessary effort to become proper professionals. Always remember that the authority of this University and the knowledge and experience of your lecturers will support your decisions and actions as a professional," said the Rector.

"Today's celebration coincides with World Health Day – the day when the constitution of the World Health Organization was signed. Since its creation in 1948, the WHO has steadily guided health cooperation worldwide and has aided in healing important threats to health globally," said Prof. Dr. Silviya Yankulovska, dean of the Faculty of Public Health, in her keynote speech. She



pointed out key moments in the University's history, significant part of which if the faculty of Public Health – with a current roster of 1854 graduates (1135 Bachelors and 719 Masters). This year among the 122 graduates were 62 with a grade higher than 5.00 and 36 with a grade higher than 5.50.

The event continued with the graduates taking the Oath, which has become a tradition, before taking on the path of professionals. The Oath was recited by their promoter, assoc. prof. Georgi Tsanev who has contributed greatly to the realization of the distance learning program at the Faculty of Public Health.

Nadya Dimitrova, chair of the Regional Body of the Bulgarian

cont. from p.2

Association of Health workers, Ivayla Petkova, head nurse at the University hospital, Mario Todorov, regional governor, assoc. prof. Emanuela Mutafova, dean of the Faculty of Public Health at MU-Varna, and Prof. Rumen Stefanov, dean of the Faculty of Public Health at MU-Plovdiv, also congratulated the graduates.

One of the keynote speakers was Dr. Els Maeckelberghe, she congratulated the graduates, "As a lecturer, I know that there is no greater pleasure than seeing your students become professionals ready to change the world. It is up to you now to decide how to perfect yourselves. If you choose to continue on the path of Public Health, I hope you will find reliable partners and become reliable professionals. I hope each of you finds the perfect environment to achieve your best. Make sure your career is one which will allow you to improve and excel."

Students Milena Aleksandrova and Polya Lambeva delivered a speech in gratitude on behalf of the graduates.

All students graduating with a grade above 5.50 received honorary diplomas. The event also included a short concert by medical students from India, awardees of the International Student day at MU-Pleven and students from the "Protection and Control of Public Health" degree course.



## "SAINT ELISAVETA" MEDICAL CENTER-PLEVEN MARKS ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH THE "REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE OF 2017 – CONTRADICTIONS AND CONSENSUS" FORUM

"Clinical Institute for Reproductive Medicine"-Pleven Medical Center hosted the seventh consecutive Reproductive Medicine Day during the traditional Immunological Days in Pleven. They run from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April and, this time, coincided with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the founding of the Center.

The seventh working meeting was under the motto "Reproductive Medicine of 2017 – contradictions and consensus" was hosted by Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Rector of the Medical University of Pleven, and the Bulgarian Immunology Clinical Association, chaired by Prof. Dr. Elisaveta Naumova, D. Sc. M. Chair of the Organization Committee was assoc. prof. Dr. Emiliyana Konova, director of CIRMMC.

"The goal of this event is to discuss modern achievements and issues in the fundamental and practical aspects of reproductive failure, encompassing various fields of reproductive medicine – midwifery and gynecology, reproductive immunology,



reproductive endocrinology, medical genetics, andrology, neonatology, reproductive psychology. We have engaged specialists in reproductive issues during the forum. Our center will also present its achievements in the different fields. Prof. Caroline Cullen – world-renowned midwife and gynecologist with many years of experience in reproductive medicine – will be among the guests," assoc. prof. Konova told journalists in February.

The official opening ceremony of the Days of Reproductive Medicine in Pleven, attended by Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Mayor Georg Spartanski, assoc. prof. Tsvetan Lukanov, was on 28 April at the Rostov hotel. "Pleven is an immunology hub for the seventh year in a row and we are glad that our city has achieved such a high academic standing and attracts world-renowned experts," said Prof. Tomov. "I would like to thank assoc. prof. Konova and her team for their professionalism and the hope and great happiness they

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have given to thousands of families. The Pleven Municipality sees it as a duty and responsibility to provide financial aid to people with reproductive issues, and partner in this with "Saint Elisaveta", said Mayor Georg Spartanski in his welcoming speech. Assoc. prof. Emiliyana Konova was awarded the honorary plaque of Pleven acknowledging the success of the Medical Center spanning over ten years.

200 reproductive medicine experts from the entire country attended the forum. It was divided into 10 scientific sessions: midwifery and gynecology, endocrinology, andrology, immunology, genetics, embryology, microbiology and virology, reproductive psychology and neonatology and medical law. During the forum there were 22 lectures and 20 reports by 40 speakers. There were also round tables about current practical problems in the field.

A medical law session to discuss various legal issues with leading lawyers was held for the first time. During the "We ask, Lawyers answer" session, moderated by Prof. Dr. Darina Zinovieva, "Ciela" publishing house announced the

release of her textbook on Medical law. "It will be very useful, especially to Pleven medical specialists as it includes the entirety of legislation relating to healthcare," said assoc. prof. Konova.

The tenth anniversary of founding the "Saint Elisaveta" Medical Center-Pleven was also celebrated during the forum. The celebrations included a concert on 29<sup>th</sup> April (World Immunology Day) at the Ivan Radoev Drama and Puppet Theater. The Center presented 10 awards for the contribution in its mission.

When asked "What did 10 years with the Center mean for You personally and professionally? How do You feel 10 years later?" assoc. prof. Konova said "Success goes where there is respect where there is love and compassion. That's what is important. Success comes only after that. If there is no bond between doctor and patient, if we show understanding and there is no mutual trust, we cannot succeed. And if you have the right team, miracles are no longer impossible."



## FIFTH NATIONAL HEALTHCARE STUDENT CONFERENCE WITH FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS AT MU-PLEVEN

The Faculty of Healthcare and the academic governing body of MU-Pleven hosted the Fifth national healthcare student conference with foreign participants on 23 and 24 March. In his welcoming speech Rector Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov noted that the forum has had great contribution to the research done at the University and that it is part of the



University's image. Prof. Meyer from Vienna was a guest of honor. The Conference once again garnered a lot of interest – there were more than 160 active participants. Their presentations were divided into three general topics – "Nurse care", "Midwifery" and "Various". Local and foreign scientists presented more than 90 reports, posters and lectures, which were accompanied by lively discussions.

Assoc. prof. Evgeniya Dimitrova was awarded an honorary plaque for her contribution to the development of the Faculty of Healthcare and the Medical University.

A special event during the conference was the grand presentation of the newly published textbook "Operative, general and special surgery" for use by healthcare students and specialists. It is product of four years of work by the Department of Surgical Nursing at the Faculty of Health care at MU-Pleven, a team led by Prof. Dr. Tashko Deliyskii. The authors consider the textbook to be written up in just the right time. It reflects the latest and modern approaches in health care subjects which are urgent both at home and in Europe – oncology, operation technique, wounds and surgical infections, high-tech and others.



## FOURTH BIOETHICS DAY AT PLEVEN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Pleven Medical University once again hosted the Bioethics Day conference, an event not held anywhere else in the country. Its first session was organized by Prof. Dr. Silviya Yankulovska, D.M.Sc., Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, in 2014. The tightly scheduled program of the session allowed for many bioethics specialists, students, doctoral students, experts, members of academia and the public to attend lectures and presentations by acclaimed foreign experts and Bulgarian participants. Previous guest-speakers have been Prof. Henk ten Have (Doctor Honoris Causa of MU-Pleven), Prof. Luciana Caenazzo and Prof. Renzo Pegoraro.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Zdravka Radionova, MD, Vice rector for Quality and Accreditation, began the form by presenting guest-speaker Dr. Els Maeckelberghe a diploma and a plaque on behalf of MU-Pleven's governing body.



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Dr. Els Maeckelberghe has a doctoral degree in Theology and is a senior lecturer of Ethics at the Medical Center at the University of Groningen. She's a founder, former long-standing chair and current vice chair of the Public Health Ethics section at the European Association of Public Health; chair of the work group for Ethics and values in Public Health schools at the Public Health Schools Association of the European region; an active member in several boards and committees among which are health organizations for disabled people, a regional euthanasia ethics commission.

The fourth Bioethics Day broke away from its format thus far by holding an interactive learning session on science work integrity using the "Integrity Factor" educational film in the before noon part of the conference. The film presents the story of a doctoral student facing various ethical dilemmas, whenever one was identified, the audience could discuss ways of behavior

and pick the direction of the story. Alongside the film Dr. Maeckelberghe introduced the basic elements of scientific integrity, focusing on the formation of scientific teams, author collectives and publication ethics. The round table discussion of euthanasia in the early afternoon garnered much interest with other participant presenting reports on the topic – assist. prof. Anov ("Euthanasia of children") and assoc. prof. Dr. Nikolay Yordanov COC-Vratsa ("Terminal sedation").

The event slogan "Ethics in practice" provided for discussion in various fields. Foreign students participated with reports about ethics issues in general practice, surgery, genetics, the pharmaceutical industry's influence and hospital policies. The best report award was given to sixth-year student Syed Mohsin Hussain for his report "Distinct Ethical Challenges Surrounding Surgery: Surgical Innovation, Surgical



Teaching and the role of a Surgeon in the Balance of Patient Care". He said he wanted to publish it as an article with the guidance of Prof. Yankulovska.

The Bioethics Day tradition of the Medical University of Pleven will expand to include the World Ethics Day on 19 October for the second time. Scientists from BAS will participate for

the first time following the Agreement for joint scientific research between the Institute for the study of society and knowledge at BAS and the Medical University of Pleven.



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## FIRST NATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENT FESTIVAL WAS IN PLOVDIV

The first national student festival of the medical universities of Bulgaria was held on 24 March. The festival was organized and hosted by the Medical University of Plovdiv by the idea of Prof. Dr. Viktoria Sarafyan. She considers the forum a place for student creativity and international spirit. The grand forum gave a stage to the artistic and scientific creativity of students embodying the notion that art and medicine share a mission – save people and their lives but also give meaning to their spiritual strife.

Among the official guests at the opening ceremony in "Magna ceremonial hall" at the Faculty of Dental Medicine were Ameliya Gesheva, Savina Petkova, Dr. Mariyana Cholakova, Prof. Milcho Vasilev, as well as representatives of all Bulgarian medical universities.

Prof. Kostyanov, Rector of MU-Plovdiv, welcomed participants and noted that it is only natural that Plovdiv hosts the first national student festival of the medical universities of Bulgaria since it is going to be the European culture capital of 2019. In his speech he also told participants, "Life is madness, but admiring it only through virtual space is greater madness still. Sport and art are a solution to this problem. They are detox. Medicine is art and art can be a medicine."

130 students from MU-Sofia, MU-Plovdiv, MU-Varna, MU-Pleven and the Faculty of Medicine at the Trakia University of Stara Zagora participated in the event. MU-Pleven students presented the University befittingly. The vivid dance of the India and Nepal students and the fast and lively national dance of the Bulgarian students got a standing ovation. Quite an emotional song performance by Gena Stoykova, medicine student, and a

memorable and modernized interpretation of a folksong by Renay Nejmi and Kristiyan Ivanov, Public health and health management students, were also part of the festival.

The festival is expected to be held annually on a rotation principle with the Medical University of Varna hosting it in 2018.



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## KNEE JOINT ARTHROSCOPIC SURGERY COURSE WITH BULGARIAN AND FOREIGN SPECIALISTS HELD FOR A THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR AT MU-PLEVEN

For the third annual year, a knee joint surgery course was held at the Endoscopy Center at the Medical University of Pleven on 10 and 11 March. The forum is organized by the Bulgarian Association for Arthroscopy and Sport Traumatology under the auspices of European Society for Sports Traumatology, Knee Surgery and Arthroscopy (ESSKA). The course was intended to recreate working conditions closest to an actual operation. It is part of the educational calendar of ESSKA and strengthens the collaboration between Bulgarian and foreign experts. The topic of this year's event was arthroscopic surgery of the knee joint, pathology often affecting young active people and professional athletes.

Among the special guests were Dr. Nikica Drabos from Zagreb, Croatia and Dr. Bogdan Ambrozic from Valdoltra, Slovenia. 20 young surgeons had the opportunity to learn from established surgeons. They could get hands-on experience with modern endoscopy tools in the high-tech environment provided by TELEC of MU-Pleven. Foreign visitors and their Bulgarian colleagues gladly shared knowledge and experience during the event, which is expected to expand and become long-running.



## FOURTH CONTEMPORARY CLASS ON MIDWIFERY AND GYNECOLOGY FOR STUDENTS, POST-GRADUATES AND YOUNG DOCTORS WAS HELD IN MU-PLEVEN

The fourth youth forum on midwifery and gynecology was held on 22 and 23 April at the Telecommunication endoscopy center of MU-Pleven. It is organized by the Medical Student Association in Bulgaria - Pleven branch, the Student council of MU-Pleven and Rector, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov. 76 students and post-graduates participated in the event.

The forum was opened in 10 o'clock on 22 April at "Ambroise Paré" hall of TELEC by 2 plenary lectures by Prof.

Dr. Slavcho Tomov and Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, Member of Correspondence at BAS.

The forum was focused on two types of topics this year - theoretical and practical. Leading specialists delivered lectures on contemporary subjects relating to prophylactics, diagnostics and treatment of female reproductive system and mammary gland disease, pregnancy and concomitant complications and others. Participants could also discuss fetal surgery. An agreement was reached that a multidisciplinary approach would be needed to handle issues in midwifery and gynecology practice. Practical sessions included 4 "workshops" which were intended to create base skills on the subject.



## MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF PLEVEN WAS PART OF THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BALKAN UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

"St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia hosted the third annual conference of the Balkan Universities Association on 24 and 25 March. The organization was established in 2008 with 59 university participants from all countries on the Balkan Peninsula to date. University of Sofia Rector, Prof. Ivan Ilchev chaired the Association for a year in 2016.

This is the first time the event is held in Bulgaria. Participants were Rectors and vice rectors from Thrace University of Odrin, the University of Tetovo, the Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Bucharest, the Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, the International Balkan University, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, the Technical University of Istanbul, Namik Kemal University, Ovidius University of Constanta, the Sport University of Tirana, the University of Argyrokastrò, the Kadri Zeka University, the University of Ioannina, the University of

Montenegro, "Aleksander Xhuvani" University of Elbasan, Fehmi Agani University, the University of Pristina and St. Clement of Ohrid University of Bitola.

The Bulgarian representatives were Technical University of Sofia, the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, the European polytechnic university, Constantine of Preslav University of Shumen, the Medical University of Pleven, the National Sports Academy, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse and the St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo.

The official opening ceremony was on 24 March at 13 o'clock in the Conference hall of the University main building. Many joint initiatives of the Association within EU funding and others, changes in the regulatory base were discussed. An Executive Committee and Chair were elected for the 2017-2018 period.



## OPEN DAYS

### FOR THE WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY AT CLINIC OF PULMONARY DISEASES OF THE "DR. GEORGI STRANSKI" UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The World Health Organization calls for government and public attention to uniting efforts in finding a way to eliminate the tuberculosis epidemic every year on World Tuberculosis Day – 24 March. It is one of the top ten terminal diseases. In 2015 alone 10.4m people have contracted the disease and 1.8m have died due to it. More than 3m people never even got medical treatment, most of them live in the poorest parts of the world –

communities that are the most susceptible to tuberculosis. Ending the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030 is among the health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Open Days are an annual event with proven efficacy for raising public awareness about the disease and providing free access to medical care. Statistics show that they have made it easier to discover and diagnose tuberculosis and latent tuberculosis in

patients – during the 2009-2016 period, 90 117 people were interviewed and 1002 were diagnosed with and treated for tuberculosis. 3 in 461 were diagnosed with latent tuberculosis and treated with chemoprophylaxis.

This year's Open Days for the World Tuberculosis Day were under the motto "United against tuberculosis". Free examinations were held during 20-24 March 2017 in medical diagnosis and treatment



### FREE FUNGAL DISEASE EXAMINATIONS AT THE DERMATOLOGY CLINIC OF THE "DR. GEORGI STRANSKI" UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The Dermatology and Venereology Clinic of the "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital in Pleven conducted free examinations for fungal disease on nails on 3 and 4 April. The campaign was intended to raise awareness of the widespread mycotic diseases – every fifth person suffers from mycotic nail disease.



### FREE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS AT THE OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINIC OF THE "DR. GEORGI STRANSKI" UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL DURING WORLD GLAUCOMA WEEK

World Glaucoma Week (13-17 March) began with an Information Day at the Ophthalmology Clinic of the "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital. The event is sponsored by the World Glaucoma Association. The disease is considered socially significant as it is so widespread and cases irreversible loss of sight. The clinic team of the Ophthalmology Clinic of the "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital and Prof. Dr. Chavdar Balabanov held a press conference on 10 March. Organizers hope that the campaign will raise public awareness of the disease.

Assoc. prof. Snezhana Murgova said that there are 90 million people who suffer from glaucoma worldwide and every year they increase by 2.4m. It is expected that because of the aging



population, the numbers will increase by 30% by 2020. Each year advanced cases of glaucoma in need of treatment are between 150 and 200.

Assoc. prof. Murgova noted that glaucoma is a "slow, silent and progressive disease also referred to as The Silent Thief of Sight. Because the damage it causes is irreversible, prophylaxis and screening are very important as when the first symptoms

manifest, it's already too late. Considering that one of the main factors for the disease is genetic, this year we turn our sights to the close relatives."

Prof. Chavdar Balabanov said that glaucoma becomes manifest after the patient has turned 40 – statistics show that 1.5-3% of people over 40 suffer from the disease. He noted that people of that age should check their ocular pressure whenever they visit an ophthalmologist. Glaucoma cannot be cured it can only be prevented so the sooner it is discovered, the better. Because of this, the Ophthalmology Clinic organized free examinations and ocular pressure screening on 17 March.



### PLEVEN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT FOR STUDENT AND LECTURER EXCHANGE WITH A UNIVERSITY IN FRANCE

Pleven Medical University and the Claude Bernard Lyon 1 University concluded a bilateral agreement for student and lecturer exchange through the Erasmus+ program for the period 2017/18-2020/21 academic years. The language required for the mobility is French.



## ROUND TABLE ON THE PROBLEMS OF IMMUNO-PROPHYLAXIS IN PLEVEN

There was a round table on the problems of immuno-prophylaxis on 19 April in Pleven, organized by the MSFT (Media, Society, Family, Tradition) foundation. The event was held in the eve of the European Immunization Week (24 to 30 April) under the motto "Vaccines work". It aimed to raise proper awareness about vaccination. "Pleven is the first of five cities where we organize a discussion about children's health," said Yuliya Piskuliyska, chair of MSFT. The event was attended by MP Dr. Nigyar Jaffer, actress Tatyana Lolova and Mayor Georg Spartanski. Assoc. prof. Dr. Viktoriya Atanasova, head of the neonatal ward of the "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital, and Dr. Nadezhda Vladimirova, National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases – Sofia, delivered reports.

"Immuno-prophylaxis is one of the fundamental medical discoveries, it saves millions of human lives. The rise of antivaccination movements subjects the lives and health of non-vaccinated children," said MP Dr. Nigyar Jaffer. She reminded statistics that before the smallpox was eradicated through vaccination, 5 million people died of

it every year. According to Dr. Jaffer, cervical cancer can also be eradicated through vaccination.

Assoc. prof. Dr. Viktoriya Atanasova, a neonatologist with 28 years of medical experience, was definite in her statement that natural birth and breastfeeding until the 5-6 month should be strongly encouraged. Just in April, she noted, four infants were admitted to the neonatal ward in Pleven after birth in an unsterile environment at home, which could be dangerous for the newborn.

Actress Tatyana Lolova and Mayor Georg Spartanski shared their position on the matter as well. Widespread awareness about health is important, he said, it's better to invest in prophylaxis than in medication.



## NEAA EXPERT GROUP AT MU-PLEVEN

A NEAA expert group from Sofia visited MU-Pleven on 07.03.2017 for the accreditation of the "doctor" EQD of "Infectious diseases" and "Pulmonary diseases, pneumology and phthisiatry". The expert group met with

the University Governing body, doctoral students, the academic staff, the SRA Center, the Clinic for Infectious diseases at the First clinic, the Pulmonary disease clinic and staff of the University library.

## FIRST LAPAROSCOPIC REMOVAL OF A TUMOR OF THE ADRENAL GLAND AT THE ONCOLOGICAL SURGERY CLINIC OF THE "DR. GEORGI STRANSKI" UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

A team consisting of Prof. Dr. Tashko Deliyski, assoc. prof. Dobromir Dimitrov, Dr. Ivelina Petrova and Dr. Tsvetomir Ivanov of the Oncological surgery clinic of the "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital laparoscopically removed a 5,5cm tumor from the left adrenal gland for the first time. The patient underwent the surgery in good condition with less than 10ml blood loss and was roused four hours after the intervention.

The surgery was first simulated with the aid of the SECTRA virtual dissection table, purchased by the MU-Pleven the previous year. This type of laparoscopic interventions has become the golden standard in the West in the past 10 years. Few clinics use this method in Bulgaria. The Oncological surgery clinic of the "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital has been successfully conducting such surgeries to remove gallbladder stones, herniation of the anterior abdominal wall, colon tumors and others.



## MSBA ONCE AGAIN HOSTED THE "THANK YOU, DOCTOR!" CAMPAIGN

The Medicine Students of Bulgaria Association – Pleven once again hosted the "Thank you, Doctor!" campaign on World Health Worker Day – 7 April. The goal of the campaign is to provide the public a chance to express their gratitude and appreciation to doctors for their care. Stations to post thank-you letters were positioned from 2pm to 6pm at the Pleven Central Mall on 3 and 4 April and from 10am to 4pm at "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital. The students later delivered them to their addressees.

## FIRST IN BULGARIA SURGERY TO REPLACE A NEW-GENERATION ARTIFICIAL KNEE JOINT BY PLEVEN ORTHOPEDISTS

A team from the Orthopedics clinic of the “Dr. Georgi Stranski” University Hospital was the first team in Bulgaria to replace a new-generation artificial knee joint while retaining the tibiofemoral joint. The patient was a 70-year-old Blagoevgrad man with weight exceeding 100kg which had led to severe deformation of the knee joints. The innovative procedure was performed by Dr. Mancho Kovachev and Dr. Hristo Gigov under the supervision of Dr. Gunther Tibor. The intervention allows for replacing the joint through a small incision which drastically decreases

blood loss and trauma to soft tissue, while also retaining the tibiofemoral joint which, in turn, provides for quicker recovery.

The intervention was also an educational course hosted by Prof. Slavcho Tomov. It was live broadcast with the aid of “Ambroise Paré” hall of TELECOM of MU-Pleven. Leading orthopedists and postgraduate students attended the surgery. “This type of surgery for prosthesis with an innovative Hungarian artificial knee joint allows for the retention of the natural moving mechanism and quicker patient recovery,” said assoc. prof. Vihar Kovachev, head of the Orthopedics clinic of the “Dr. Georgi Stranski” University Hospital. “It is a highly specialized surgical intervention that is very easy on the patient,” added prof. Vladimir Stavrev, manager of the Orthopedics clinic in Plovdiv. Another great advantage of this new joint is the price which is much more bearable for the elderly who often have issues with knee joints. “It amounts to 4200lv, 2700lv of which are paid by NHIF,” added prof. Stavrev.



## SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN NURSE TRAINING ABOUT CARETAKING OF CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

In March 100 nurses working in Pleven schools and kindergartens underwent training about problems in controlling and caretaking of children with diabetes. It was organized by Vasilka Ruseva, vice chair of BAHCP (Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals). The first such training in Pleven, under the motto “Nursing children with diabetes in schools and kindergartens”, garnered huge interest. It focused on prophylaxis for the disease and more communication with healthy children. They need to be



explained how to eat healthy and the importance of physical activity as well as other diabetes-preventing topics. Margarita Ivanova, lecturer at the

Faculty of Health Care at Medical University – Pleven, was a speaker at the event.

Vice chair of BAHCP, Vasilka Ruseva, used the opportunity to express gratitude to the Mayor of Pleven for providing the “Gena Dimitrova” hall for periodical school and kindergarten nurse training free of charge.

The next training is scheduled to be about the increasing cases of allergic reactions in children.



## AWARD-WINNING RANKINGS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLEVEN IN SPORTS UNIVERSIADE



The MU-Pleven governing body aided notable student sportsmen to show their potential in university sports meetings. The 2017 Universiade was held between 28.04. and 03.05. in Ravda village. There

were about 60 participants, 18 of which were MU-Pleven students. They ranked high with great competition. In chess (Veronika Vasileva) and table tennis (Venetsiya Valcheva) for women our competitors decisively took the gold. In the 3x3 basketball tournament, both for men and women, our students stood out with high accuracy and team coordination, which secured their first place.

Gold medal winners: Toni Georgieva, Denitsa Radeva, Nikol Kancheva, Stanislava Vasilkova, Tsvetan Todorov, Tomas Tomson, Jose Costa, Martin Milanov, Arwin Jamali.

Our beach volleyball team earned silver medals – Ivan Petkov, Georgi

cont. on p.10

cont. from p.9

Atanasov, Mario Vasilev, Aleksandar Latev, Kenan Bayrami. Karmen Korteseo, Kristina Soler and Rumena Dimitrova also won silver in volleyball. Boyan Gergov, Emil Popov, Boyan Penev and Martin Milanov earned bronze.

The student sportsmen are ambitious and aim to achieve more in future editions of the event.

The teams were organized and managed by assoc. prof. Iskra Ilieva, assoc. prof. Iliyan Ilchev, Kolyan Monov, Petar Popov and Hristo Genov; basketball team selection and coach – Krasimir Petkov.



## “ERASMUS+” PROGRAM SEMINAR IN MU-PLEVEN



The European Integration and International Cooperation Department at MU-Pleven with the cooperation of the Human Resources

Development Center in Sofia held an information seminar on 20.04.2017. The goal was to acquaint students and lecturers about mobility opportunities of 2017/2018. The Erasmus+ program marks its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. 3.3 million of the 5 million participants in the program are students.

Stoyan Kyulev, head of the Support for Education Policies and Information Activities at the Human Resources Development Center, and Daniela Dimitrova, executive director of the “Europe Direct”-Pleven European information center, were honorary guests at the event.

The FRESH Project, 2016-2018, was also presented. It is funded by the European Commission on the Horizon 2020 Program – Marie Skłodowska Curie. The second phase of the Project, partnered by MU-Pleven, is scheduled for this year.

A digital data processing system was set up for the first time to evaluate the results from a poll among the attendees.

The results presented an excellent evaluation of the presentation and gathered knowledge.



## 28 FEBRUARY – OPEN DAY FOR CANDIDATE- STUDENTS AT MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLEVEN

Medical University – Pleven held the traditional Open Day for candidate-students on 28 February, Tuesday, 2017 at 1:30pm. The University opened doors to candidate-students, their teachers and parents as part of its admissions campaign. Students and lecturers welcomed them at the Endoscopy Telecommunication Center at MU-Pleven.

The Day was officially opened with a video about the University. Vice rector for education, Prof. M. Aleksandrova, and the chair of the Student council welcomed them. All candidate-students wishing to study medicine, pharmacy or any other degree course at MU-Pleven had a chance to acquaint themselves with the University structure, lecturers and students, admission examination schedules and ask the evaluation committee any questions they might have. Assoc. prof. Dobromir Dimitrov, vice dean of the Faculty of Medicine, presented an interesting demonstration of the use of the high-tech 3D medical table for virtual dissection.

## SIXTH EMPLOYER'S MARKET AT THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF MU-PLEVEN

The traditional employer's market was hosted by the Medical College – Pleven on 28 April. The round table was under the motto: “Let's provide jobs for every graduate and improve the quality of education to eliminate competition.” There were 109 employer participants from many hospitals and clinics nationwide.

The round table was intended as a discussion of curricula, practical training and to receive feedback from employers about the quality of education at the Medical College – Pleven. The event was hosted by assoc. prof. Dr. Evgeniya Hristova-Barzashka, MD, director of the College. It provided a medium for discussion between institution representatives and students.

## PRELIMINARY EXAMS FOR THE TWO MASTER IN MEDICINE AND PHARMACY DEGREE COURSES AND THE NINE BACHELOR DEGREE COURSES IN APRIL

Once again this year, Medical University – Pleven held two exam sessions – preliminary and regular admission exams.

Two preliminary exams (in Biology and Chemistry) were held on 9 and 23 April 2017 beginning at 9am. The admission exams were for the Master in Medicine, and Pharmacy degree courses. 622 candidate-students attended the first Biology exam, welcomed in “Asklepiy” hall by vice rector of education, Prof. Margarita Aleksandrova, the Exam Evaluation Commission chair, assoc. prof. Milena Atanasova, Virzhiniya Lazarova and the candidate-student parents. Sonya Milkova drew exam version №16 for the Biology exam which lasted 4 hours. After evaluation the results were: good – 34%, very good – 26% and excellent – 9%.

The second preliminary exam for the Master in Medicine, and Pharmacy degree courses was Chemistry. The 573 (76 more than last year) candidate-students who attended the exam were welcomed in “Asklepiy” hall by vice rector



of education, Prof. Margarita Aleksandrova, the Exam Evaluation Commission chair, Prof. Angelina Stoyanova, Virzhiniya Lazarova and the candidate-student parents. After evaluation the results were: good – 37%, very good – 28% and excellent – 12% (22 candidate-students).

On 8 April 107 candidate-students attended the Biology admission exam for the nine Bachelor degree courses, including “Medical cosmetics”. They could see their examination results online. Among them, 34% received a “good” mark, 22% – “very good” and 30% - excellent.

Application, between 20 to 30 June, for the regular exams could be done on the spot, online or at admissions bureaus anywhere in the country. Regular exams are scheduled on 5 July (Biology) and 12 July (Chemistry) for the Medicine and Pharmacy degree courses. The Biology test for the Bachelor degree courses will be on 27 July.



## PLEVEN GOVERNOR VISITED MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLEVEN



Pleven regional Governor, Mario Todorov, met with Medical University – Pleven Rector, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov. The Rector showed

him around the Endoscopy Telecommunications center with the high-tech 3D medical table for virtual dissection where he made a demonstration of the possibilities the equipment provides to the guest.

At the end of his visit, Mario Todorov inspected the newly established Faculty of Pharmacy. He noted the University's important role in becoming an educational hub not only in the region but in the entire country, attracting more and more Bulgarian and foreign students with its modern image. This, he noted, has a positive impact not only on the University as an educational and health center, but on the city as an attractive hub for social and economic development.



## MU-PLEVEN STUDENTS ORGANIZED AN INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR WORLD RARE DISEASE DAY



Once again this year World Rare Disease Day was observed worldwide on the last day of February. It was observed in 15 cities in Bulgaria, among which was Pleven, by releasing

colorful balloons in solidarity for the millions around the world suffering from rare diseases.

The Medicine Students of Bulgaria Association – Pleven and students from the Faculty of Health Care at the Medical University organized an informational campaign at the Pleven Central Mall in order to raise awareness of the millions affected around the world. The students explained that one person in 2000 suffers from a rare disease, and in Bulgaria they are estimated to be around 400,000.

“Even though the National Health Insurance Fund doesn't cover all of them or has very specific requirements from the budget, there are things being done to alleviate this issue. It is difficult but change is happening. There are diseases for which there has been little funding but in time the funding has increased, or the Insurance Fund has covered it completely,” said the students.



## MU-PLEVEN ONCE AGAIN HELD A CHARITY MARKET “MARTENITZATA – LET'S KEEP TRADITION TOGETHER” – A PROJECT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR PERSONS AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



The students and lecturers of the Social Activities degree program at the Medical College – Pleven, worked on the annual project “Martenitzata – let's keep tradition together”. The initiative promotes creativity in persons and children with disabilities by including them in the process of making martenitsa. The project aims to bring together students (future social workers) and people in need of social services in a creative environment in order to make traditional Bulgarian martenitsa. They were made in the “Grandmother Marta Workshop” and were on display on a charity market at the lobby of the University main building from 27 February until 1 March. The proceedings will go toward therapy for adults and children with disabilities.

Participants in the exhibition were Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration; “P.R. Slaveykov” Special School; Shelter for adults with mental retardation; Mental Health Center and Day care center for adults with disabilities.

Separate markets were set up by Social Activities first and second year students to raise funds for various initiatives for the people in need of social services; and by the National Association of Orphans in Bulgaria in support of the “Festival of Beauty – Plevn 2017” campaign to aid less fortunate high school graduates.



Students acquainted their foreign colleagues with the meaning behind this unique Bulgarian tradition. This event is only part of the series of events dedicated to World Social Work Day on 21 March and Week of Action (20 03 – 24 03 2017).

The charity market and the project are sponsored by Rector of MU-Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov and Plevn regional Governor, Mario Todorov.



## MEDICAL COLLEGE – PLEVEN CELEBRATED WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY



The students and lecturers of the Social Activities degree program at the Medical College – Plevn celebrated World Social Work Day on 21 March in “Plevn” hall. The event, sponsored by Plevn regional Governor, Mario Todorov, gathered many representatives of various social institutions of the Plevn region.

The program of the event, which was under the slogan “Cooperation”, included a “Cooperation” presentation by students of the Social Activities degree program; a role-playing game “A child in risk” by high school students studying “Social work with children and families at risk” at the “Aleko Konstantinov” Vocational School – Plevn; a concert by dance ensemble “Aleko dances and sings”, six family-type accommodation centers in Plevn and Day care center for adults with disabilities in Plevn.

The World Social Work Day is part of the Week of Action which is every third week of March.



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