

TBILISI MEDICAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

MASTER'S DEGREE IN APPLIED PUBLIC HEALTH



**TBILISI
MEDICAL
ACADEMY**
MEDICINE STARTS HERE



GIPA
In hoc signo vinces

GEORGIAN
INSTITUTE
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

- BECOME A MASTER OF APPLIED PUBLIC HEALTH
- GET A JOINT DIPLOMA



WWW.TMA.EDU.GE / WWW.GIPA.GE

Dear reader,

We are pleased to share with you the fourth edition of the newsletter of the Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA).

In this edition, we would like to share information about the events carried out in TMA from September 2023 to February 2024.

*Sincerely,
TMA's Public Relations and Marketing Department*

IN THIS EDITION

- EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP
- TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- STUDENT LIFE
- BLOGS & PODCASTS

EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► Joint Master's Program of TMA and GIPA

The master's program of Applied Public Health is a joint project of the Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) and the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA). Within the project framework, TMA - in Medicine and GIPA - in Public Policy, offers students an appropriate and unrivaled standard of education.

The cooperation of the two universities in the academic space is the first successful example of joint efforts. With practice-oriented teaching, the program differs from the existing master's degree programs in Georgia.

The program is in English and its objectives, results, structure, and content that align with the labor market requirements and international practice. After completing the studies, the graduate will receive a joint diploma.

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EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

▶ Trainings within the LIFESTRAND Project

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ LIFESTRAND project, the delegation of the Tbilisi Medical Academy, alongside the representatives of eight different universities of Georgia and Ukraine, was on a working visit to the city of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and the city of Porto (Portugal). Consortium members participated in a training with a primary focus on basic life support and first aid skills.

The project LIFESTRAND, aims to teach first aid skills to the staff, and students of the University of Ukraine and Georgia and share experience in this direction. Also, teaching first aid skills to vulnerable populations living in potentially high militaristic risk zones and affected by Russian occupation and military aggression.

The Erasmus+ institutional development project - "LIFESTRAND" was created, planned and is conducted directly under the coordination of TMA. The project unites 9 universities in Georgia, Ukraine, Spain, and Portugal.



▶ Project LIFESTRAND

Dr. Mariam Jashi - Chair of the TMA Advisory Board met with Dr. Nedret Emiroglu - Director of Country Readiness Strengthening for Health Emergencies at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva. Dr. Mariam Jashi presented to Dr. the Erasmus + LIFESTRAND project developed and coordinated by the Tbilisi Medical Academy in partnership with 9 Consortium partner universities from Georgia, Portugal, Spain, and Ukraine.

Dr. Emiroglu commended the Erasmus Lifestrand initiative and expressed interest in possible future collaboration with TMA and Consortium partners for applying similar capacity-building approaches for displaced populations and other vulnerable community representatives affected by health emergencies.

As the next step, Dr. Jashi will share the project with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and request a joint meeting to discuss possible collaboration, how Erasmus Lifestrand partners could cooperate with WHO more closely throughout the elaboration of the new guidelines and possible future expansion of the initiative to other countries and regions.



▶ ERASMUS+ Project SAFEMED+

SAFEMED+ is a success for international medical education!

The University of Catania hosted the dissemination of the results of the project SAFEMED+ "Simulation in Undergraduate MEDical Education for Improvement of SAFETY and Quality of Patient Care". The event was attended by the representatives of the universities of the countries included in the consortium. TMA Vice-Rector in International Affairs Ia Avaliani, who is also the coordinator of the project also attended the event.

<https://www.unictmagazine.unict.it/safemed-un-successo-leducazione-medica-internazionale>

EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Medicine: Innovations and Challenges 2023 (MEDIC 2023)

TMA hosted an international scientific conference "Medicine: Innovations and Challenges 2023 (MEDIC 2023)" in a hybrid format. The event received accreditation from EACCME®.

The primary objective of the MEDIC 2023 conference was to address current issues in medicine and healthcare, presenting innovative and interdisciplinary research and their outcomes while facilitating interactive activities. Throughout the event, attention was dedicated to the activities aimed at developing the research skills of young scientists and students.

Within the framework of this project, TMA hosted several events:

- "Brain Aging" - Professor Osvaldas Ruksenas (Vilnius University)
- "Antibiotic resistance and bacteriophage therapy" - Professor Mladen Krajačić (University of Zagreb)
- "Hints and Tips to Become an Effective Leader" - Professor Melita Kovačević (University of Zagreb)
- "Use of induced pluripotent stem cells to study the mechanisms of rare genetic diseases" - Sylvia Albert (PhD, Radboud University Medical Center)
- "Human Neutrophil Lipocalin" - Irakli Khuntsaria (TMA student)

Also, a Mcathon - "Research Hypothesis" was held.



Erasmus+ SAFEMED+ Project Closure Ceremony

Tbilisi Medical Academy hosted the closure ceremony of the Erasmus+ SAFEMED+ project.

Delegations of universities participating in the consortium from Ukraine, Armenia, Spain, Italy, and Lithuania visited Tbilisi to attend the final event. The meeting was attended by representatives of National Erasmus Offices (NEO) from Ukraine and Armenia, who greeted the audience remotely.

The project SAFEMED+ "Simulation in Undergraduate MEDical Education for Improvement of SAFETY and Quality of Patient Care" was ongoing for three years and involved the introduction of innovations in medical education, sharing experience, and strengthening the clinical line with a modern approach.

The project was created, planned, and implemented directly by TMA, which brought together a consortium of nine universities from Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, and Lithuania.



AMEE Annual Conference

The Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) 2023 conference was hosted by Glasgow (Scotland). The 7th International Conference on Faculty Development in the Health Professions also took place in conjunction with AMEE 2023.

Tbilisi Medical Academy took part in both conferences. Academy representatives had oral presentations and e-posters. Nino Sikharulidze and Maka Zarnadze had oral presentations. Kakha Bregvadze had an e-poster.

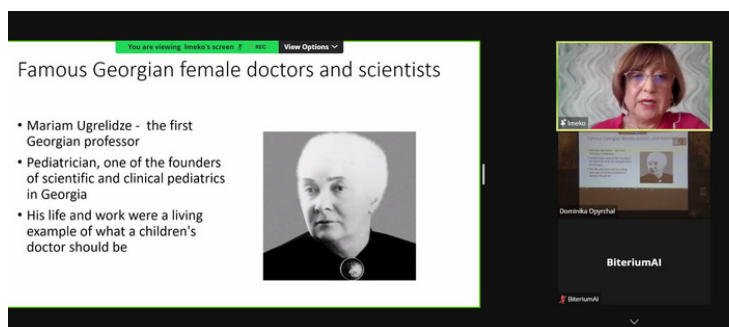


EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► **Conference “Georgian Studies Day”**

The University of Westminster (London) hosted the annual conference “Georgian Studies Day”. This year's conference was dedicated to Georgian professional women working in various fields. Within the framework of the event, one selected representative of the field spoke about his/her profession.

Professor Lali Mekokishvili, Dean of the School of Medicine of Tbilisi Medical Academy, was invited to the event to talk about medicine. She attended the conference remotely and talked about outstanding Georgian female doctors, and medical education, discussed the interesting changes in higher medical education on the example of TMA, and talked about post-graduate education and her professional path.



► **The International Day of Women and Girls in Science**

TMA's Vice-Rector in Research, Ekaterine Kldiashvili, was awarded for her special contribution to the development of science.

In connection with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, an event was held in the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, within the framework of which, successful women scientists were awarded for their special contribution to the development of science.



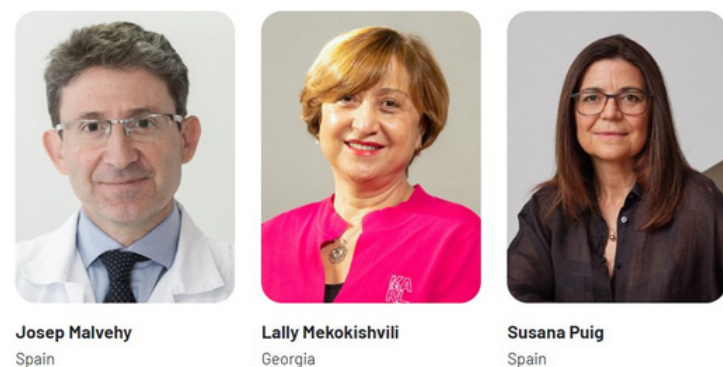
► **XIV International Congress of Dermatologists**

The Dean of the School of Medicine of TMA, Professor Lally Mekokishvili was chosen as the European Ambassador of the XIV International Congress of Dermatologists. The Congress will be hosted in June, 2025.

<https://www.icd2025rome.org/ambassador-project/?cont=7>

Ambassador Project / Europe

← Back to continents



► **Employment Forum 2023**

Tbilisi Medical Academy hosted an employment forum. About ten leading companies representing the medical field were represented at the forum, which offered TMA students and graduates vacancies on various positions. The employment forum organized by TMA aims to meet students and organizations, introduce current vacancies or internships, and promote career growth.



► **Insulin: The Combination of Science and Technology**

Within the frames of the project, „InTech4MED: Innovation and Technology in Medicine“ a hybrid event was held. It aimed to discuss the details of this extraordinary scientific achievement and clinical simulation case.

EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► Professor Nele Michels's visit to TMA

TMA hosted the head of the clinical skill center at Antwerp University, Professor Nele Michels, and conducted curriculum development meetings and training about assessment methodology in medical education.

► Educational Event

How do we increase students' motivation for independent learning? To share personal experiences and innovations in the methodology of medical education, TMA hosted an interactive meeting.

TMA lecturers reviewed the guidelines of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) and the latest research published in the journal "Medical Teacher" in the direction of increasing student motivation and developing independent learning skills.

► Mladen Krajacic's visit to TMA

TMA hosted an international expert, Professor Mladen Krajacic. During the two-day training, the expert in Microbiology talked about viruses and bacteria. Also, the speaker reviewed how we can use viruses, bacteria, and their structural elements and enzymes as cellular/molecular tools in biotechnology and molecular medicine.



► Seminar "Lessons Learned"

The Head of the Institutional Culture Development Department, Maka Maglakelidze, and student Rishu Shah were invited to speak at the University of Bayreuth, Germany for the seminar "Lessons learned" with the master students in planetary health, about their experience in the field, discussing planetary health initiatives carried out at TMA and providing their insights, highlighting individual scientific journey, and core scientific skills that are essential for the persons willing to work on the issues of Planetary Health.

► Training for New Lecturers

TMA hosted orientation meetings for new lecturers. The training was held on the following topics: introduction to the methodology of medical education, and basic principles of presentation organization.

Within the framework of the meeting, the new lecturers got acquainted with the history, mission, directions of strategic development, educational program, library resources, and electronic management system of the Academy.

► ESPCAL - Encapsulation of Salmonella Phages in Cationic Liposomes

In the quest to contribute to the battle against pathogenic bacteria, the project "ESPCAL – Encapsulation of Salmonella phages in cationic liposomes" has been proposed by the Tbilisi Medical Academy.

The research is focused on the development of advanced phage delivery systems to extend their in vivo lifespan, shield them from immune defenses, and improve their ability to combat intracellular pathogens. A pivotal step of this project is the exploration of liposome encapsulation as a promising technique.

"ESPCAL – Encapsulation of Salmonella phages in cationic liposomes" is funded by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia, calling for basic research state grants in 2023.

► TMA Science Club: Recent Medical Breakthroughs

TMA Science Club, in collaboration with Ilia State University, hosted an engaging and insightful series of talks focused on the latest breakthroughs in medical research.

Speakers: Ana Gabrichidze, Ana Gogoladze, Ana Katamadze, Ana Kvavadze, Elene Magaldadze, Ekaterina Arteaga, Giorgi Bughadze, Khatia Devadze, Ketevan Vepkhvadze, Lela Koriauli, Leeroy Musiyarira, Mariam Tsiklauri, Moe Goto, Natali Kiladze, Rishu Shah, Shaima Alkodami, and Soso Obolashvili.



TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Six Days Of Country Doctor

"They have a different kind of boldness. They are not afraid of rain or snow, because they know for sure that they are the patient's only hope at the end of a long road, and betrayal is out of the question..." - Saba Zakradze, second-year student of Tbilisi Medical Academy, participant of the photo project.

Six Days Of Country Doctor is a project TMA has been implemented for the second year. The first season in 2022 took place in the mountainous region of Adjara. In 2023, the project tells the story of the doctors living in the highland villages of Guria.



"სოფლის ექიმის 6 დღე"

თბილისის სამედიცინო აკადემიის ექვსმა სტუდენტმა ჩოხატაურის მუნიციპალიტეტის სოფლებში იმოგზაურეს და იქ მომუშავე ექიმების ყოველდღიურობა ფირზე აღბეჭდეს.

Guria News / Sep 15, 2023

Your Life is in Your Hands

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The campaign called "Your life is in your hands" started on October 1st and will continue throughout the year.

The first event of the campaign was held with the slogan - „Get screened and be protected“. TMA students, administrative staff, representatives of the National Screening Center, together with the organization "Europa Donna Georgia" and ordinary citizens assembled a living chain. The event symbolically serves to raise awareness about breast cancer and express solidarity with patients.

Tbilisi Medical Academy traditionally joins the breast cancer awareness campaign and plans various events in this direction.



Reflective Session

Breast cancer is not a verdict! What should we know about this disease and how should we prevent it? Is mammography the only method for diagnosing breast cancer? What is the level of awareness among citizens about breast cancer and its screening?

To answer these questions, TMA hosted the reflective session. Within the framework of the event, TMA students made presentations that raised awareness about breast cancer.

The event was attended by TMA students and administrative staff, as well as representatives of TMA partner organizations Europa Donna Georgia and the National Screening Center.



Pink Marathon

Students of Tbilisi Medical Academy participated in the "Pink Marathon" together with the National Screening Center, the beneficiaries of "Europa Donna Georgia" and citizens.

"This day is important for every medical student. It is necessary to spread the word to as many people as possible that cancer can be beaten, especially in the 21st century. Breast cancer is not a sentence! Such events help us to raise awareness and deepen our professional knowledge" - Lika Titvinidze, TMA's first-year student.



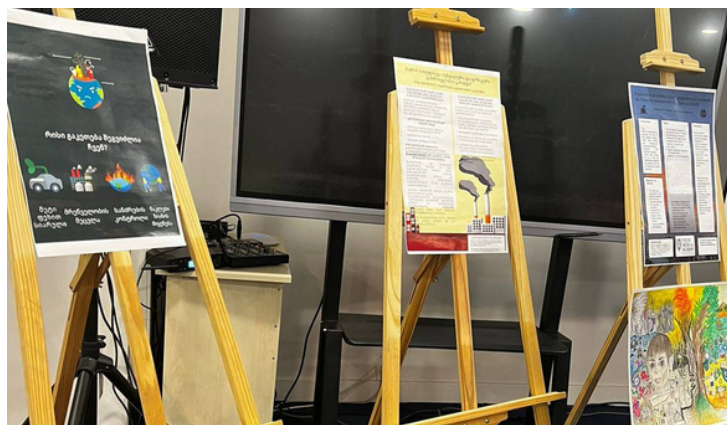
TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GO GREEN Campaign of TMA

What can a medical university do to adhere to greener policies and respond to the global challenge of climate change and air pollution?

This is what the GO GREEN campaign of TMA echoes, within the framework of which TMA Eco Club has planned various advocacy activities which include sharing information about environmental issues with international experts, and clinicians, as well as close dialogue with the patients. The advocacy campaign also includes the promotion of vegan and vegetarian foods.

As part of the GO GREEN campaign, a round table meeting was held at TMA, participants of which were respiratory patients, a pulmonologist, representatives of TMA's partner organization Vegan Georgia, and Global Youth Strategy (GYS) President and Co-Founder Mr. Elvis Ndikum Achir.



The GO GREEN Campaign Continues

Small steps towards big change! Preserving the health of patients and the planet together! TMA Eco Club members united around this slogan and held a workshop together with their American peer and intern at TMA Jennifer Iospa. The workshop was devoted to the discussion of topics related to environmental issues and planetary health. Within the framework of the meeting, short presentations of TMA students were showcased and summarized the activities already implemented by TMA within the campaign. Jennifer also shared her experience in this direction with our students. The intern from Williams College spent three weeks at TMA, where she got acquainted with the academy's programs and student life.



World Vegan Day

The TMA Eco Club organized an event dedicated to World Vegan Day at the Tbilisi Medical Academy. Within the framework of the event, TMA students and guests talked about the necessity of planetary health and healthy nutrition. Representatives of the non-governmental organization "Vegan Georgia" also participated in the event. They held a presentation in collaboration with the "Plant-Based Treaty" organization, where they introduced university students to various aspects of the usefulness of plant-based menus.



Project - "Love Nature"

TMA student club "Helpers of Community" organized the cleaning event. Students cleaned the area around the Tbilisi Sea.

The goal of the project "Love Nature" was to clean up the environment and thus emphasize the importance of volunteering.

The head of the club is Anano Akhobadze, who at the same time represents the Tbilisi Medical Academy in the American Council in the international direction.

Anano received funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs to implement the "Love Nature" project.



TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

World Bioethics Day at TMA

"Protecting future generations" - with the same title, TMA announced a student contest, where participants had the opportunity to present their works through various art mediums, such as painting and poetry. Some of them presented their own story with scientific posters.

The issues that the students brought forward in their work were climate change and related threats, the potential of using artificial intelligence in healthcare and also the thought-provoking side of using artificial intelligence in terms of bioethics, the doctor-patient relationship, the role and responsibility of the individual for the current processes in the world. Understanding how important it is for future generations to have clean air, water, and biodiversity in the world.



How to approach patients with Alzheimer's?

How to approach patients with Alzheimer's and what mistakes do we make when dealing with them? TMA hosted a workshop, organized by the Tbilisi Medical Academy and supported by the Alzheimer's Association of Georgia. The event was led by TMA student Khatia Devadze and Alzheimer's Association representative Mariam Alavidze.

Within the framework of the event, various methods of approaching patients with Alzheimer's disease were discussed.

It should be noted that the audience present at the workshop participated in various mind-training games.



Art Therapy

"Art therapy" is a topic that is intended for people of any age and gives the project participants the opportunity to express the emotions they feel in paintings: fear, stress, sadness or joy. The aim of the project is to present the connection between art and medicine. This transdisciplinary approach helps participants discover different skills within themselves and express their emotions through art.

Anano Akhobadze, head of the "Helpers of Community" club, who at the same time is a graduate of the Flex program, won a grant from the Office of Local American Councils, which is funded by the US State Department, to implement the "Art Therapy" project.



TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

TMA Students in Elderly Homes

"Dear youngsters, we are the past, and you are the future. We indeed crossed paths at some point in our lives, however, we will not be able to see what you will see in the future, and what we have already gone through and seen, you will not be able to see, so let's tell each other stories more often" - said the 85-year-old resident of the elderly home, Grandpa Giorgi.

TMA students visited elderly homes located in Tbilisi and Rustavi. They gave the old people New Year's gifts and necessary equipment.



TMA Students at "Babale"

TMA students visited the social enterprise "Babale" and participated in art therapy with children. TMA cooperates with many organizations within the framework of social responsibility, one of them is the day center "Babale", with which many events have already been implemented. At this stage, TMA students visit "Babale" every week and participate in various activities with their youngsters.



"Animal Project"

TMA hosted Nino Chlaidze, co-founder of the non-governmental organization "Animal Project", who talked to the students about current issues related to four-legged friends.

- Animal shelters - "Myth or Reality" related to them
- Rules of behavior with street dogs
- What to do if we are faced with an aggressive dog
- How to make our dog friendly with street dogs

Blood Donation

In partnership with K. Eristavi National Center of Surgery TMA hosted another social activity, a blood donation campaign which was held with the involvement of students and TMA staff. Such projects are aimed at increasing the sense of social responsibility among students and at the same time, promoting the development of Georgian society.



*"ქვეყნის ძაღლებთან ურთიერთობა
საქართველოში და მთელი
მსოფლიოს მასშტაბში"*

გთავაზობთ



STUDENT LIFE

▶ Preparing for ISCOMS

TMA students Elene Liluashvili and Elene Lipartia, the ambassadors of the International Student Congress of (bio)Medical Sciences (ISCOMS), held an informational meeting for their peers.

The purpose of the meeting was to share information about ISCOMS. Specifically, what is ISCOMS? Who and how can participate in this international congress and how can we prepare for ISCOMS 2024?



▶ Exchange Program

31 more TMA students departed for Turkey with the exchange program.

Within the framework of the bilateral exchange program, students will undergo internships at the Research Hospitals of Ataturk University (Erzurum) and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University (Rize).

Students had the opportunity to spend three weeks in the following departments: Gynecology and Obstetrics, Emergency medicine, Podiatry, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and Cardiology.



▶ Orientation Week for International Students

TMA hosted an orientation week for international students. During one week, the freshmen had the opportunity to get acquainted with our mission, goals, curriculum, library resources, institutional culture, and Student Academy.



▶ Dandy Constitution

TMA School of Medicine Dean, Professor Lali Mekokishvili, and Dandy TMA Local Club Senator Tony Varghese signed the Dandy Constitution.

The Dandy aims to create an academic environment for medical students, residents, neurosurgeons, and neurologists. To achieve this, the Dandy Club has already organized several events.



▶ Dandy Student Conference

TMA hosted a conference organized by the Dandy Student Club. The event called StrIAT' 24 was held with the support of the Georgian International Medical Students Association (GIMSOC). "Ways of identification and treatment of stroke" - around this title, students presented abstracts and posters. A panel discussion and two workshops were held as part of the event.



▶ "What? Where? When?"

October 18 is the International Day of Action for Academic Integrity. To celebrate it Tbilisi Medical Academy held the thematic intellectual game "What? Where? When?" and the screening and discussion of episodes of the movie "The Words".



STUDENT LIFE

► **Graduation Ceremony**

TMA celebrated the Graduation Ceremony for the International Class of 2024. Graduates were awarded the qualification of Medical Doctor (MD). Here's to the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in your life! Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors!



BLOGS & PODCASTS

Read here:



ველაზე ფერადი სტაჟირების დღეები / The most colorful internship days

თავი დანდურისვილი / Tako Dandurishvili თსა-ს სტუდენტი, V სემესტრი / TMA Student, V semester ველაზე ფერადი სტაჟირების დღეები არსაფროს...

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ISCOMS დღეები / ISCOMS Days

ელენე ლილუაშვილი, თსა-ს სტუდენტი / Elene Liliashvili, TMA Student ISCOMS დღეები ჩემი ზეთი დღისი დაფინანსარი თავდადასავალი ISCOMS-ის კონგრესს...

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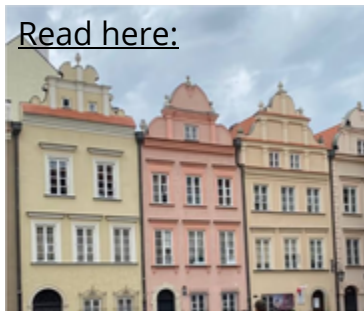


ჩემი სამედიცინო თავდადასავალი / My Medical Adventure

ლევან ბახტაძე / Levan Bakhtadze თსა-ს სტუდენტი / TMA Student ჩემი სამედიცინო თავდადასავალი ზაფხულის არდევინების გატარების პერიოდის კონც...

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მედიცინის სინთეზი / Synthesis of Medicine

თავი კობულაშვილი / Tako Kobulashvili თსა-ს სტუდენტი / TMA Student მედიცინის სინთეზი მე ვარ თსა-ს კობულაშვილი, ზაფხულის პერიოდის სინთეზის...

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Tbilisi Medical Academy

გიორგი ამირიძე - USMLE გამოცდილება / Geo

გიორგი ამირიძე
GIORGI AMIRIDZE
თსა-ს სტუდენტი
TMA STUDENT

USMLE

10:54

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Tbilisi Medical Academy

Jennifer Iospa / ჯენიფერ იოსპა - Internship at TMA / სტ...

ჯენიფერ იოსპა
JENNIFER IOSPA
WILLIAMS COLLEGE (U.S.A)

12:22

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Tbilisi Medical Academy

პროექტი ნერტოლ-მისიე ; Geo ხატია ხატიაშვილი

პროექტი ნერტოლ-მისიე
DISCUSSION WITH ALUMNI

14:12

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Tbilisi Medical Academy

Alumni podcasts - Davit Djanishvili

დავით დანიასვილი
Davit Djanishvili

Three Golden Rules on Career Development Way

14:31

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