

# TBILISI MEDICAL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



## ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS!

- > MEDICAL SCIENCES
- > PUBLIC HEALTH

### IN THIS EDITION

▶ EDUCATION AND  
PARTNERSHIP

▶ SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY

▶ STUDENT LIFE

▶ PODCASTS

IN COMPLIANCE WITH FOLLOWING  
UN SDG GOALS:



#### ACCREDITATION OF PHD PROGRAMS

- ✓ MEDICAL SCIENCES
- ✓ PUBLIC HEALTH

#### ACCREDITATION OF PHD PROGRAMS

The PhD Programs in Medical Sciences and Public Health at Tbilisi Medical Academy have been accredited by the Higher Education Program Accreditation Council! The aim of doctoral education is to prepare highly qualified professionals in biomedicine, medicine/public health, and related fields for research, practical, and academic careers.



#### Project VITAL

VITAL – Virtual Innovation and Training for Advancing Faculty Leaders, Digital Competencies, and Research Excellence is an international capacity-building project funded by the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange programme. TMA participates as a partner, with implementation coordinated by the Faculty Development Department and the Research and PhD Department.

DEAR READER,

WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE EIGHTH EDITION OF TBILISI MEDICAL ACADEMY'S (TMA) NEWSLETTER.

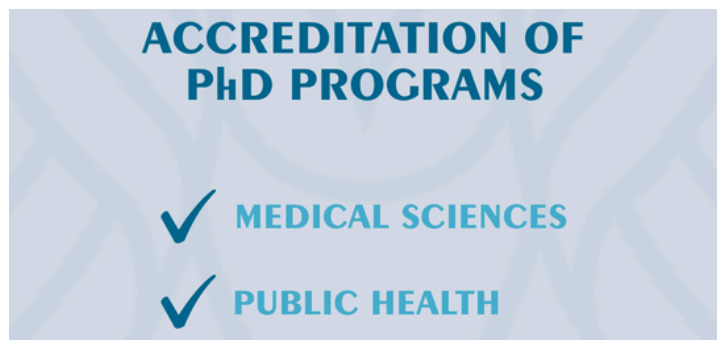
IN THIS EDITION, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN TMA FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 - FEBRUARY 2026.

SINCERELY,  
TMA'S PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

▶ ACCREDITATION OF PHD PROGRAMS

The PhD Programs in Medical Sciences and Public Health at Tbilisi Medical Academy have been accredited by the Higher Education Program Accreditation Council! The aim of doctoral education is to prepare highly qualified professionals in biomedicine, medicine/public health, and related fields for research, practical, and academic careers. TMA's doctoral programs will contribute to shaping a new generation of researchers who are capable of planning and conducting research in response to the challenges faced by society.

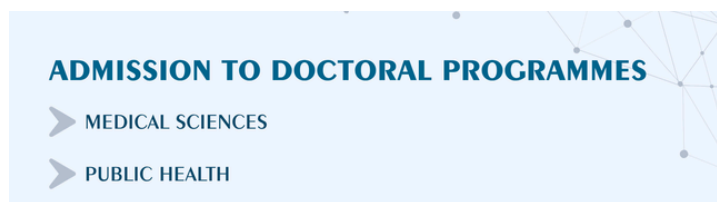


▶ ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

Tbilisi Medical Academy announced admission to the doctoral programmes "Medical Sciences" and "Public Health" to conduct the following doctoral research projects:

1. Effects of deep brain stimulation of hippocampal cortical and subcortical inputs with different electrical parameters on memory function in rats with cognitive impairment (Scientific Supervisor: Gela Beselia; Doctoral Programme: Medical Sciences)
2. Reflective portfolio as a tool for learning and assessment of professionalism in undergraduate medical education (Scientific Supervisor: Maia Zarnadze; Doctoral Programme: Medical Sciences)
3. Patient safety through integration of digital health in medical curricula (Scientific Supervisor: Ekaterine Kldiashvili; Doctoral Programme: Medical Sciences)
4. Advancing patient safety through implementation of multidisciplinary clinical team models (Scientific Supervisor: Ekaterine Kldiashvili; Doctoral Programme: Medical Sciences)
5. Assessment of behavioral and clinical characteristics of patients enrolled in the Hepatitis B treatment program (Scientific Supervisor: Giorgi Kamkamidze; Doctoral Programme: Public Health)

Instruction language of doctoral programmes is English.



▶ TBILISI MEDICAL ACADEMY JOINS WHO'S ACAN NETWORK

In December 2025, Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) officially became a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Acute Care Action Network (ACAN).

ACAN is a global alliance established by the World Health Organization through the strategic collaboration and support from the Laerdal Foundation and the American Heart Association. Its mission is to save millions of lives by improving access to and the quality of emergency, critical and operative care, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, through dissemination, implementation and evaluation of WHO tools and resources.

WHO ACAN brings together up to 80 organizations worldwide across 194 countries. Tbilisi Medical Academy is the first university from Georgia to join this strategically important network.

TMA's nomination to the ACAN Secretariat was made at the initiative of Dr. Mariam Jashi, Chair of the TMA Advisory Board and the CEO of the Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA). GSA closely collaborates with the World Health Organization and co-chairs one of the working groups of ACAN.

TMA's successful membership in ACAN was substantially facilitated by the development of a joint grant application for the EU Horizon Programme, led by Prof. Eka Kldiashvili, Vice-Rector in Research, and with the active contribution of Dr. Dea Goderdzishvili, Medical Education and Research Specialist at the Academy. The proposal was developed under TMA's coordination with a consortium bringing together 12 ACAN member organizations. The results of the application review are expected in 2026.

The TMA's delegation chaired by Rector Irene Shotadze looks forward to participating in ACAN's Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 2026 on the margins of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva.



EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

▶ **INTERNATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE DAY**

On September 23, Tbilisi Medical Academy celebrated International Sign Language Day, co-organized by the Georgian Student Association of Public Health (GSAPH), led by TMA graduate Dr. Ana Gabrichidze. TMA is the first medical university in Georgia to recognize sign language as an elective, highlighting its importance for effective and equal communication in healthcare, as noted by Prof. Tsisana Lomashvili.

During the event, TMA and the Georgian Union of the Deaf signed a memorandum to promote sign language among students, create teaching opportunities, and foster integration with the hearing-impaired community. Attendees included Amiran Batatunashvili, President, and Maia Metonidze, Vice President of the Union, who stressed the importance of sign language for future doctors. The association continues to collaborate with TMA on inclusivity projects.

[TV Show Morning Palitra](#)  
[Public Broadcaster - International Deaf Week](#)



▶ **TMA AT THE PROFFORMANCE+ PROJECT CONFERENCE**

The final PROFFORMANCE+ project conference took place in Budapest, titled “Stakeholder Meeting – Enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Learning,” with 90 participants from 14 countries. TMA was represented by Bidzina Chachkhiani, Deputy Head of the Quality Assurance Office and PROFFORMANCE+ institutional ambassador. The conference focused on the practical use of the PROFFORMANCE+ assessment tool, short training courses, and the teaching support database, and was supported by Erasmus+ and the Tempus Public Foundation.

▶ **PRESENTATION OF A LECTURE-FREE PROGRAM**

The Faculty Development Department of TMA organized a workshop for academic and visiting lecturers to introduce the lecture-free program and active learning methods. This innovative, evidence-based approach shifts the focus to active learning during seminars, helping students apply theory in practice and develop skills to analyze their own learning.

▶ **TMA at EAIE 2025**

Representatives of the International Relations Department of Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA), Natalia Kochlashvili and Tekla Ratiani, participated in the annual conference of the European Association for International Education (EAIE). The 35th conference was hosted this year in Gothenburg, Sweden.

As part of their visit, TMA representatives also traveled to the University of Skövde, one of Sweden’s prominent HEIs. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to gain deeper insights into the university’s academic environment and research priorities, particularly in the fields of medicine and nursing.



▶ **Digi-CHange consortium kick-off meeting**

The Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project Digi-CHange – Digital Transformation and Curriculum Development for Healthcare Teams has begun. Launched in October 2025, the project aims to modernize medical and nursing education by integrating digital health, artificial intelligence, and interdisciplinary collaboration. The consortium includes institutions from EU countries (Ireland, Italy, Latvia) and partner countries (Georgia, Ukraine).

A key milestone was the first international consortium meeting, where member teams discussed project priorities and developed a joint action plan, marking the transition from preparation to coordinated implementation and reinforcing the shared vision for educational reform.



EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► **Project VITAL**

VITAL – Virtual Innovation and Training for Advancing Faculty Leaders, Digital Competencies, and Research Excellence is an international strategic capacity-building initiative funded by a grant from the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange programme.

Within the project, TMA participates as a partner organization, and its implementation and coordination on behalf of the Academy are facilitated by the Faculty Development Department and the Research and PhD Department, ensuring strong institutional engagement.

The project is coordinated by the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), Spain. VITAL is implemented by an international consortium bringing together partner universities from Spain (University of Santiago de Compostela), Italy (INFOR Elea Smart Business Academy), Ukraine (Institute of Food Biotechnology and Genomics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine - IFBG, Ternopil National Medical University, Ukraine - TNMU), and Georgia (Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy - TMA, Business and Technology University - BTU).

► **The official launch of the VITAL project**

Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) is proud to serve as a partner and host of the official Kick-Off Meeting (KoM) of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Project VITAL – Virtual Innovation and Training for Advancing Faculty Leaders, Digital Competencies, and Research Excellence.

VITAL aims to strengthen the professional development of early-career faculty in Georgia and Ukraine by focusing on 4 main objectives:

- Supporting career development through soft skills and academic leadership training;
- Improving digital competencies through innovative and AI-supported teaching methods;
- Strengthening research capacity through peer mentorship, methodology workshops, and co-authorship opportunities;
- Promoting European values through inclusive leadership and improved institutional policies.

The four-day meeting, held at TMA marked the official launch of this three-year project, lays the foundation for a coordinated start of the project, and supports its successful implementation.

**VITAL**

**VIRTUAL INNOVATION AND TRAINING FOR ADVANCING  
FACULTY LEADERS, DIGITAL COMPETENCIES, AND  
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**



EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► **Arrhythmia Winter School 2026**

Co-organized by Tbilisi Medical Academy and the Arrhythmia School, Bakuriani once again hosted the project "Arrhythmia Winter School 2026".

It is an important educational event aimed at enhancing the knowledge of medical students and young doctors in electrocardiography (ECG) and arrhythmia management.

This initiative has been successfully implemented for several years. For the past two years, it has been conducted under the aegis of Tbilisi Medical Academy's institutional project LIFESTRAND.



► **CIMED Leaders Visit Tbilisi Medical Academy**

Prof. Josette Denekens and Prof. Herman van Rossum, heads of the Center for Innovation in Medical Education (CIMED), visited Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA). During the visit, they held meetings with program heads, the Dean of the School of Medicine, the Quality Assurance Service, and the Clinical Reasoning Line Implementation Team.

The discussions focused on the results of educational innovations at TMA, feedback from faculty and students, and their impact on the quality of education. CIMED representatives also met with the Quality Assurance Office to discuss mechanisms for implementing and monitoring educational innovations.

► **Workshop - "Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA - Mini-CEX and Cbd)"**

The Faculty Development Department and the Programs Department of Tbilisi Medical Academy organized a workshop on "Workplace Assessment (WPBA - Mini-CEX and Cbd)." The workshop aimed to introduce lecturers involved in clinical training to modern workplace-based assessment methods.

Program co-head Kakha Bregvadze presented the concept and importance of workplace-based assessment, shared international experience, and discussed plans for implementing these methods at the academy.

► **European University Association Meeting**

The next meeting of the European University Association (EUA) Thematic Working Group was hosted by Linköping University (Sweden). On behalf of the Faculty Development Department of Tbilisi Medical Academy, the meeting was attended by the Head of the Department, Associate Professor Dr. Maka Zarnadze, and the Medical Education and Research Specialist Dr. Dea Goderdzishvili.

The meeting aimed to develop and finalize a framework for staff development and to strengthen transnational cooperation. Another key objective was to prepare a workshop for the European University Association Learning and Teaching Forum, scheduled for February 2026.

Since spring 2025, the Faculty Development Department of TMA has been actively participating in the activities of the EUA Thematic Working Group, which focuses on promoting staff development and enhancing transnational collaboration.

The group brings together representatives of leading European universities: Linköping University (Sweden), Ruhr University Bochum (Germany), Université Côte d'Azur (France), Universidad de Huelva (Spain), University of Warwick (UK), AAB College (Kosovo), "Aleksandër Moisiu" University - UAMD (Albania), National Polytechnic University of Armenia, (Armenia), and other countries. TMA was included in the working group based on a successful application and is actively engaged in the ongoing processes aimed at sharing best practices and institutional models in staff development.



► **International Course "Entrustable Professional Activities"**

The heads of the one-step educational programs of Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA), Tsisana Lomashvili and Kakha Bregvadze, successfully completed the international online course on Entrustable Professional Activities - EPAs: "Ins and Outs of Entrustable Professional Activities". The course was organized by the Association of Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE) and was taught by such authoritative figures in medical education as Ole ten Cate, Harm Peters and others. It is worth noting that EPA is currently being actively implemented in many countries around the world. Based on the experience gained within the EPA course, the implementation of EPA in TMA's Medical program was planned, which is currently underway.



EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► **Medicine: Innovation and Challenges 2025 (MEDIC 2025)**

On 25–27 November, Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) hosted the international scientific conference “Medicine: Innovation and Challenges 2025 (MEDIC 2025)”. The three-day conference was held in a hybrid format. The event was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®).

The conference aimed to highlight key topics shaping the development of the modern medical doctor — the importance of innovative educational approaches and research; the role of society in research processes; and the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating innovative technologies and artificial intelligence into healthcare and medical education.

TMA students and alumni, as well as doctoral and master’s students from partner universities, actively participated in the three-day conference, delivering presentations and engaging in interactive workshops.



► **TMA Participates in EUA Thematic Working Group Meeting**

Since spring 2025, the Faculty Development Department of Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) has been participating in the European University Association (EUA) thematic working group on staff development and transnational cooperation. The group brings together representatives from leading European universities to share best practices and institutional models.

TMA was represented by Associate Professor Maka Zarnadze, Head of the Faculty Development Department, and Medical Education and Research Specialist Dea Goderdzishvili. During the meeting, Dea Goderdzishvili presented TMA’s goals, initiatives, best practices, and current challenges in developing staff professional competencies.

► **First Aid Training in Telavi**

A team from Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) visited Telavi State University and Telavi Child Development Center on December 5-6, the activity took place within the framework of the Academy and Erasmus+ Institutional Development Project “LIFESTRAND.”

The students, with the involvement of the Academy’s staff, conducted first aid training. The students were mentored by Professor Ia Avaliani, TMA’s Vice-Rector for International Relations, Akaki Sepashvili, Head of the Clinical Skills and Objective Structured Examination Center, and Berika Kiknadze, Deputy Head of the Clinical Skills and Objective Structured Examination Center.

The goal of the project is to teach first aid skills to vulnerable populations living in potentially high militarized risk zones, who have been affected by the Russian occupation and military aggression.



► **EUA Annual Forum**

The annual forum of the European University Association (EUA) was hosted this year by Lisbon, Portugal. The main theme of the forum was to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in European universities through staff development.

Within the framework of the meeting, Tbilisi Medical Academy was represented by Associate Professor Maka Zarnadze, Head of the Faculty Development Department, and Ana Mamiseishvili, Coordinator of the Rector’s Current Affairs. Together with European partner universities, the Academy’s representatives presented to the forum participants the results of a one-year work of the European University Association’s thematic working group. In particular, they facilitated a workshop dedicated to transnational cooperation in the field of staff development.



► **ARIVE Project Consortium Kick-off Meeting**

On February 3, the ARIVE project consortium held its Kick-off Meeting online to discuss the project’s objectives, key work areas, cooperation format, and coordination arrangements. The meeting also focused on workflow planning, communication practices, and defining upcoming activities, establishing a shared framework for project implementation.

ARIVE is an Erasmus+ project aimed at creating high-quality virtual research opportunities for students and early-career researchers in health sciences and related fields.

EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIP

► **Polish Delegation at TMA**

Within the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Programme, Tbilisi Medical Academy hosted Prof. Janusz Janczukowicz, Head of the Centre for Medical Education at Lodz Medical University (Poland), together with his colleagues, to share their expertise with TMA students and staff.

During the visit, the guests delivered lectures and workshops on medical professionalism, innovative approaches in immunology, trauma-informed education, leadership, and doctor-patient communication. Meetings with TMA's academic and administrative staff also focused on sharing best practices, discussing curriculum development, and exploring future cooperation, including topics related to the one-health and planetary health approaches.



► **Digi-CHange**

Digi-CHange – Digital Transformation and Curriculum Development for Healthcare Teams is an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education project coordinated by Petre Shotadze Tbilisi Medical Academy.

The project is implemented by an international consortium bringing together higher education institutions and partner organisations from EU Member States (Ireland, Italy, and Latvia) and partner countries - Georgia and Ukraine. Digi-CHange aims to modernise medical and nursing education through the integration of digital health, artificial intelligence, and interdisciplinary collaboration, preparing future healthcare professionals for ethical, collaborative, and digitally enabled clinical practice.

Investigator: Scientific-Research and PhD Department

► **ARIVE - Advancing Research and Innovation in Higher Education through Virtual Exchanges**

ARIVE is an Erasmus+ project aimed at establishing high-quality virtual research opportunities for students and early-career researchers in the fields of health sciences and related scientific disciplines. The project seeks to strengthen the international research capacity of participating institutions through the implementation of structured virtual research semesters, training activities focused on the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence for research purposes, and international academic mentorship.

The ARIVE consortium brings together partner universities and research institutions from Latvia, Portugal, Norway, Ukraine, and Georgia. The project promotes interdisciplinary research, the development of inclusive academic networks, and the implementation of joint scientific projects.

Investigator: Scientific-Research and PhD Department

TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

► **Motivation for Personal Growth**

The workshop "Motivation for Personal Growth" was held for the staff of Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA). The workshop was led by psychotherapist Nino Buadze. Participants had the opportunity to understand their personality types and apply projective tests in practice.

The workshop also provided participants with evidence-based recommendations aimed at managing motivation and preventing stressful experiences. Dr. Buadze discussed strategies for stress prevention, as well as the development of self-regulation and resource management skills, helping participants apply the acquired knowledge effectively in both their professional and personal lives.



► **Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders**

Tbilisi Medical Academy hosted psychotherapist and clinician Dr. Lana Ruadze, who spoke to students on the topic of "Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders."

Schizophrenia is a psychiatric disorder that affects both mental and physical health. The speaker discussed in detail modern approaches to the condition, as well as the key aspects of its diagnosis and management.

The participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest international research and contemporary clinical approaches, the implementation of which in practice will significantly contribute to the improvement of professional activities in the field of mental health.

► **Pink October**

TMA traditionally participated in the breast cancer awareness campaign. Like in previous years, this year, TMA students and academy representatives actively participated in the human chain campaign.

TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

► **Student Grant Program for Social and Cultural Projects - presentation**

**Student Project Presentation**

A dissemination of the results of social and cultural grant projects was held at the Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA), where the authors of last year's winning projects presented the results and main achievements of their initiatives. The goal of the event was to popularize the implemented activities, share experience and emphasize the importance of student initiatives.

Last year, the competition commission awarded five winning projects:

1) "Planetary Health and Waste Management"

Authors: Avtandil Samadalashvili, Medea Kusiani

The project combined a variety of activities over three months: seven informational and educational training courses and one large-scale cleaning campaign. Students collaborated with three non-governmental organizations and two social organizations, namely: "Tene", "Sadagi", CENN, Plastic Watcher and "My City Kills".

As a result of the project, the students provided training for 30 students. In cooperation with the organization "Tene", special boxes were placed in the TMA space for collecting plastic bottles, the transportation and recycling of which is also provided by the same organization.

2) "Whisper of Danger: Studying the Decibel Effect on Heart Rate"

Authors: Rishu Girish Shah, Tamar Dandurishvili

The project authors shot a short educational film that explores the impact of noise pollution on cardiovascular health. The film combines real stories, expert assessments and presents the direct and indirect impact of noise on human well-being.

The project's goal was to raise public awareness and encourage action for the city's health. The initiative is fully aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, TMA's mission, and its values.

3) "Special Needs Support"

Authors: Tata Tatalashvili, Elene Sajaia, Sesili Lazaria, Ana Chikovani

The goal of the initiative was to promote the integration of people with disabilities into society and create an environment where each person could realize their potential.

The students disseminated information on the challenges facing people with specific needs and their families in Georgia. Eight activities were implemented over a six-month period — lecture sessions, interactive meetings, and art therapies. The project involved collaboration with two NGOs and an autism center. More than 120 students and more than 50 people with disabilities participated in the initiative.

The project slogan is: "Inclusivity starts with awareness — and awareness starts with us, future doctors."

4) "Students for Public Health"

Authors: Mariam Jorbenadze, Nana Katchiuri, Mariam Kevkhishvili, Saba Chikobava, Elene Liluashvili, Elene Gubeladze

The goal of the project was to raise awareness about arterial hypertension and popularize first aid skills in the Gurjaani region. Informational and practical activities were carried out — hypertension screening and an emergency care workshop.

In the Kakheti region, the project authors, students, examined 35 patients (25 women, 10 men).

Within the framework of the initiative, the students also covered the Guria region. In particular, a hypertension

screening campaign was held in the village of Shroma, Ozurgeti Municipality, where 57 patients (26 women, 31 men) were provided with cardiological consultations and electrocardiography over two days.

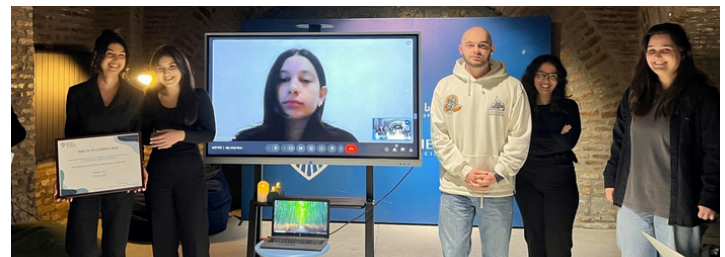
The citizens were attended to by TMA students, Associate Professor Shorena Chumburidze and invited lecturer Nino Chaghiashvili.

5) "VitalCare"

Authors: Nino Chkhutishvili, Levan Bakhtadze, Mariam Berdenishvili, Lia Tevdoradze, Tamar Kobulashvili

The "VitalCare" project aimed to spread basic medical knowledge among adolescents and develop the skills to respond correctly in emergency situations. Over the course of three months, the students covered six cities: Tbilisi, Rustavi, Gori, Akhaltsikhe, Bakuriani, and Samtredia. Each visit included practical workshops and active interaction with school students.

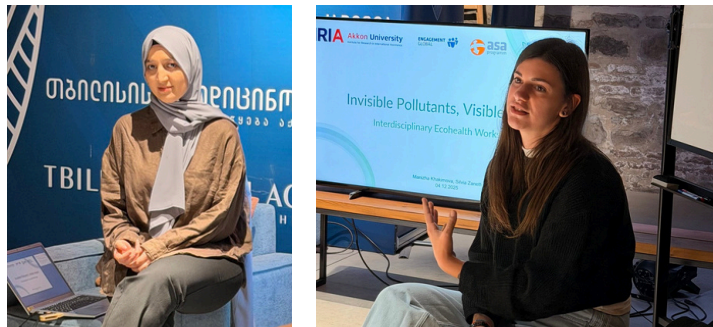
The project slogan: "Knowledge saves lives."



TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

German students visit TMA

Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) hosted Silvia Zanetti and Manizha Khakimova, students from Akkon University of Human Sciences in Berlin, who came to Georgia to conduct a study on public knowledge, risk perception, and practices related to air pollution and its impact on health in Tbilisi. The six-month study is being carried out with the participation of TMA students Nanuka Katchiuri and Mariam Kevkhashvili. During their visit, the students also held an Eco-Health workshop titled "Invisible Pollutants, Visible Impact," discussing the effects of air pollution and nanoparticles on human and environmental health. In addition, they led a workshop for TMA administration on the concept of an eco-friendly university, highlighting the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility in medical education.



TMA Students at the Georgian National Screening Center

Why is early diagnosis important? And how does screening help save lives? Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) students visited the Georgian National Screening Center to discuss these topics. The students were hosted by the Director of the Screening Center, Dr. Eter Kughuradze, who is also an alumnus of the Tbilisi Medical Academy. She introduced the students to the specifics of the center's work and shared her own professional experience with an emphasis on the importance of prevention and the necessity of a timely diagnosis. In addition, the Director of the Center introduced the students to the screening programs currently operating in Georgia, talked about the existing challenges and future plans. The meeting was held as part of the "Pink October" awareness-raising campaign.



Charity Event at TMA

Tbilisi Medical Academy hosted a charity event with the participation of students, graduates, and the Georgian Student Association of Public Health (GSAPH). The event was held within the framework of Pink October and was dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer. The main goal of the event was to inform the public, increase the importance of early detection and strengthen patient support. As part of the event, TMA invited a renowned mammologist, endocrine surgeon, skin and soft tissue surgeon, oncologist, Dr. Soso Sanikidze. The speaker discussed the importance of breast cancer screening. The event was also attended by Zhana Babunashvili, the Regional Director of "Europa Donna Georgia" and a member of the Board of the Caucasus Onco-Society "HOPE". The meeting was attended by TMA students, graduates, administrative and academic staff. Also, Maia Metonidze, the Vice-President of the Georgian Union of the Deaf, and members of the union, for whom a sign language interpreter simultaneously translated the event. The evening ended with a concert by the group "Mgzavrebi". The proceeds from the event were fully transferred to the Caucasus Onco-Society "Hope", which unites women who have defeated breast cancer or are currently going through this path.



Student Volunteering Opportunities

Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) hosted representatives of the Georgian Down Syndrome Association and the social enterprise "Babale." The aim of the meeting was to provide students with real practical experience in an inclusive environment, introduce volunteering opportunities, and deepen future cooperation. The event was hosted by Maka Maglakelidze, Head of the Institutional Culture Development Department. Among the invited guests were Ketii Arjevanidze, Head of the Education and Development Department of the Down Syndrome Association; Nino Sikharulidze, Expert of the "Babale" Career Guidance and Employment Program; Gigo Shiukashvili, Founder of the Gigo Foundation; and Mariam Berikelashvili, Self-Advocate. The meeting discussed in detail short- and long-term volunteering programs, as well as the joint plans of the Academy and the Association, which provide students with new opportunities for professional growth.



TMA'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

▶ COPD Day at TMA

November is observed as COPD Awareness Month, and to mark this occasion, Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) students organized an event at the Academy. The event included an interactive session and educational activities, the aim of which was to raise awareness about the toxins contained in cigarettes, as well as to highlight the impact of cigarettes on lung function.

The interactive session was led by Nino Maglakelidze, Consultant for Chronic Respiratory Diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office and independent consultant in the field of tobacco control. The speaker introduced the audience to the research related to tobacco use among young people in the European Region and Georgia.

▶ Film Screening by TMA Students

The film is published on the official TMA YouTube channel - [Movie](#) "Whispers of Danger: Exploring the Effects of Decibels on Heartbeats" – the premiere of the educational film took place in TMA's event hall. The film was created by the students Tamar Dandurishvili and Rishu Girish Shah to explore the connection between noise pollution and cardiovascular health. It combined real stories, expert assessments and showed how much the sounds around us can influence our well-being.

The students' work is one of the projects that won the Social and Cultural Student Projects Competition. "By combining medicine and art, we decided to shed light on an invisible threat – the hidden connection between noise pollution and cardiovascular health," the project authors noted.

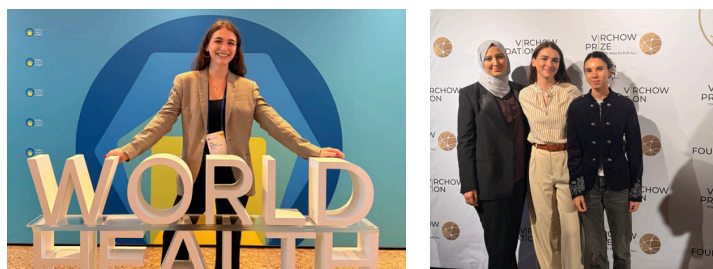
The students' goal was to raise awareness in society through the film, so that each of them could take active steps to create a sustainable and healthy city.

STUDENT LIFE

▶ TMA students at Young Researchers Symposium

Tbilisi Medical Academy (TMA) students Nanuka Katchiuri and Mariam Kevkhishvili presented their research at the Young Researchers Symposium at Akkon University of Human Sciences in Berlin. The study, conducted with German and Georgian students, examines public knowledge, risk perception, and practices related to air pollution and its impact on health in Tbilisi.

During the visit, TMA students also connected with young researchers from different countries, attended the Virchow Prize 2025 ceremony honoring contributions to global health, and participated in the World Health Summit, a major forum addressing key public health challenges such as climate and health, equity, innovation, and digital medicine.



▶ Bridging Cultures: Morocco and Georgia

The cultural event was organized by the TMA's Culture Club and with the participation of the National School of Applied Sciences Al Hoceima, Morocco. The goal of the event was to deepen cooperation between students from different countries, exchange experiences, and promote intercultural dialogue.

The event presented the rich history and diverse culture of two countries — Georgia and Morocco.

Within the framework of the initiative, the participants were given the opportunity to have a discussion to better understand each other's history, traditions and modern culture. Presentations from Georgia were made by students Tamar Dandurishvili and Lizi Mokvanidze, while Fatima Achbout shared information about Moroccan culture with her peers.

▶ Project - "Young Health Heroes"

"Young Health Heroes" is a grant research project implemented by TMA student Anano Akhobadze, aimed at studying the effectiveness of Peer Instruction and traditional teaching methods in education.

Within the project, students visited the public school in Nichbisi village for three days and delivered sessions for 9th and 10th grade students on various health topics, including HPV, tuberculosis, COVID-19, vaccines, hepatitis, nutrition, sleep, physical activity, genetic and acquired diseases, and diabetes.



▶ Memory Science and Alzheimer's Disease

Another meeting organized by the Alzheimer's Club was held at Tbilisi Medical Academy on the topic "Memory Science and Alzheimer's Disease." The guest speaker was Ana Kiknadze, Secretary of the Georgian Alzheimer's Association and Head of its Youth Department.

The discussion highlighted Alzheimer's disease as a major challenge of modern medicine and emphasized the importance of understanding memory mechanisms and promoting compassion in healthcare. TMA continues its close cooperation with the Alzheimer's Association of Georgia to promote scientific knowledge, dialogue, and patient-centered approaches to neurodegenerative diseases.

STUDENT LIFE

► **Cardiology Workshop**

A workshop for students interested in cardiology was held by TMA Associate Professor and cardiologist Dr. Ana Rekhviashvili. She discussed paths to becoming a cardiologist and presented clinical cases, while students practiced interpreting ECGs and echocardiograms, ending the session with a Kahoot game.

The event was organized by TMA students Gvantsa Omiadze, Lika Kekelidze, and Papuna Sirbiladze, founders of the officially registered Georgian Students' Cardiology Association. The association aims to unite students interested in cardiology, promote education, and develop research initiatives. Its motto is: "Unite, Learn, Create, and Grow Together for the Heart!"



► **Student Conference - "Innovations in Cardiology"**

A student-organized scientific conference, "Innovations in Cardiology," was held by TMA's student club "Guardians of the Heart Squad," bringing together students interested in cardiology. Participants presented reports on rapidly developing areas of cardiology, with a focus on innovative catheter ablation techniques, the latest strategies for diagnosing and treating cardiovascular diseases, and modern approaches to managing current cardiac pathologies.

► **Orientation Day for Freshmen**

Freshmen and First day at TMA!

During the orientation day, our freshmen had the opportunity to get acquainted with the curriculum, infrastructure, institutional culture, and quality management system.

TMA's senior students played an active role in the event, welcoming freshmen, showcasing student projects and activities, and sharing their own experiences. They also introduced the wide range of exchange programs offered by the academy, helping newcomers feel more at home and better connected to their new environment.



► **Internships in Poland & Lithuania**

This year, for the first time, TMA students completed a clinical internship at the University Clinic in Białystok (Poland) as part of the bilateral exchange program. Students also continued their clinical training at Klaipėda University (Lithuania) within the same program.



ALUMNI

➤ From TMA Graduation to Cardiology

TMA hosted graduate and cardiologist Dr. Zviad Kereselidze, who discussed the importance of guidelines and evidence in clinical practice and presented his latest research. Students also participated in a group activity assessing cardiovascular disease risk, gaining valuable experience, especially for those planning a future in cardiology.

➤ USMLE Workshop at TMA

Are you considering taking the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) but don't know where to start? TMA hosted a workshop on this topic led by graduate Giorgi Amiridze, who successfully passed USMLE Step 1. Giorgi shared his experience with students, including the materials and resources that helped him, his preparation time, and study routine. He also provided practical advice to help students achieve their goals.

➤ TMA Alumnus Visits the Academy

TMA hosted graduate Dr. Giorgi Tatelishvili, who spoke to students about the importance of empathy in practice, clinical relationships, and participation in social projects. Dr. Giorgi shared his experience with social initiatives, including his current project, a day center for people with mental health issues, and encouraged students to get involved. He graduated in 2022 and has been active since 2020, contributing to the fight against COVID-19 and notable social projects, including "Mestumtre."



TMA PODCASTS

Tekla Gabiskiria and Malima Chikhladze from Bialystok Medical University shared how the exchange program and the Bologna Process impact young people.



**Watch here:**

In this episode of TMA Insider, students Rishu Girish Shah and Deborah Akinsulire discuss climate change and its impact on planetary health.



**Watch here:**

Sesili Lazaria and Ana Chikovani from the Istanbul Aydin University exchange program stories - proof of how the Bologna Process is changing the lives of young people.



**Watch here:**

This year marks 20 years of growth and collaboration, and students Maria Bichnigauri and Irakli Khuntsaria share memorable stories from their exchange at Masaryk University.



**Watch here:**

WELCOME PARTY & GRADUATION





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