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THE KUWAIT AMBASSADOR VISITED MU-PLEVEN



On August 7, 2019, His Excellency Dr. Jakub Al-Atiiki, Ambassador of the Emirate of Kuwait to Bulgaria, visited Medical University - Pleven to get acquainted with the Management, the facilities and the competitive advantages of the University in both innovative training and research. The ambassador, who was accompanied by the

Chairman of the *ABV* PP, Rumen Petkov, was welcomed by the Rector of MU-Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, by the Honorary Rector Prof. Grigor Gorchev, Vice-Rector for European Integration, Prof. Dr. Savelina Popovska, PhD and the Deputy Rector for Research, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Galya Stavreva. Professor Tomov



welcomed His Excellency and briefly presented the key achievements and facts of the 45-year history of the University.

The Kuwait Ambassador was pleased with the opportunity to get to know the representatives of the academic elite of Bulgaria, expressing his good impressions of the quality of the Bulgarian doctors and medical specialists who work in Kuwait and hold key administrative posts. He expressed his conviction that MU - Pleven could successfully cooperate with Kuwait through academic exchange and partnership in the field of education and research.

His Excellency's, Dr. Yakub Al-Atiyiki, visit ended at the Telecommunication Endoscopy Center with a visit to the Museum of Minimally Invasive Surgery, where he observed a demonstration of 3D surgery and later exchanged protocol gifts.

Information: V. Dukova

DOCTORS AT UMHAT 'ST. MARINA' SAVED A YOUNG CANCER PATIENT AND HER UNBORN FIRST CHILD THROUGH THREE CHALLENGING SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS

On August 15, the specialists at UMHAT "St. Marina" performed a complex double operation to save two lives - a baby boy was born, the first birth of a patient with cervix cancer. The double surgery included a caesarian section performed by the team of Dr. Pepo Partenov, followed by a radical hysterectomy (removal of the cervix, uterus and lymphatic dissection) - by the team of Corr. Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev.

The patient is 24 years old, from Plovdiv and this was her first pregnancy. During a routine examination, part of the first trimester of female consultations, a tumor of the cervix was found, necessitating a biopsy. Histology examination proved malignancy. The patient was referred to an oncologist and this led her to St. Marina hospital in Pleven, where she was treated by Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov. The patient was adamant that the pregnancy was desired and planned and did not want it to be interrupted. After a clinical discussion with Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, it was decided that the

woman should undergo a complex, two-stage treatment. The first stage involved surgery for the removal of the

cervix along with the tumor (trachelectomy) and the placement of a suture thread to preserve and allow the pregnancy to continue.

The patient spent the rest of her pregnancy fully rested and under constant observation until her second admission to St. Mary's Hospital in Pleven, in order to undergo special preparation for the second stage of her treatment. It involved the sophisticated and precise double surgery - section and radical hysterectomy. The preparatory work was related to the preparation of the fetus to reach the required pulmonary maturity. The double surgery was performed on August 15, the day of the Virgin Mary, leading to the birth of a healthy baby boy and the rescue of the young mother. The caesarian section was performed by the team of Dr. Pepo Partenov, and the subsequent radical hysterectomy - by the team of Corr. Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev and Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov.



A DOUBLE ROBOT-ASSISTED OPERATION PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COUNTRY BY THE UROLOGISTS AT ST. MARINA HOSPITAL - PLEVEN

The urological team at St. Marina Hospital – Pleven performed a unique for the country double robot-assisted operation of a 57-year-old patient with two malignancies - prostate cancer and tumor of the left kidney. The patient was hospitalized at St. Marina Hospital – Pleven with suspected tumor in the left kidney. A prostate biopsy was taken and screening and a PET scan were performed. Prostate cancer and a tumor in the inferior part of the left kidney measuring 30 mm were found. The urologists at St. Marina University Hospital - Pleven Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Kolev and Dr. Boyan Atanasov, who have years of experience in minimally invasive surgery, decided to perform the two operations simultaneously with the

latest-generation robotic system Da Vinci Xi: Radical prostatectomy (removal of the entire prostate), with bilateral lymphatic dissection and partial nephrectomy (removal of the tumor-affected part of the kidney) using the same ports of the robotic system. The other members of the team were the urologist Dr. Alexander Vanov, as well as the anesthesiologists Assoc. Prof. Kamelia Tsvetanova and Dr. Diana Sariivanova.

According to the urologists who performed the complex robot-assisted intervention, with conventional surgery this procedure could not be done at one stage because of the need for two large incisions, a long operative time and surgery-related injuries. In conventional surgery, all these factors

would inevitably lead to slower patient recovery and the risk of complications. Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Kolev and Dr. Boyan Atanasov further commented, regarding the advantages of robotic surgery for patients: "With the robotic system, the operation was performed in four hours, with minimal blood loss (150 ml), warm ischemia time of 13 min. through the 6 ports. The very next day, the patient was in excellent condition and able to move."

Since January 2019, St. Marina Hospital – Pleven has accumulated over 10 years of experience in robotic surgery in gynecology and its application in the treatment of patients. The hospital has a state-of-the-art surgical system, which facilitates robot-assisted gynecology and urology operations. The numerous benefits for patients who undergo robot-assisted surgery have been aptly demonstrated: minimally invasive surgery, precision and safety for the patient, no cuts and scars, low blood loss, reduction of postoperative pain and discomfort, short hospital stay, fast recovery and return to normal social activities.

Original material by: V.Dukova



THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY AT MU-PLEVEN TOOK PART IN THE BULGARIAN PHARMACEUTICAL DAYS FORUM

At the 13th edition of Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Days at the end of June, the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University - Pleven was represented by its lecturers and academic staff. They introduced the opportunities for student applications, quality training and career prospects in the pharmaceutical sciences and practices in the city of Pleven. The forum is one of the most significant events on the calendar of the professional organization of master pharmacists in Bulgaria. For the first time ever, it was organized outdoors, among the beauty of nature - in one of the finest mountain resorts in Bulgaria and on the Balkans, Borovets.

Representatives of MU - Pleven – Assoc. Prof. Maya Yotova, PhD, Assistant Professor Galina Dyakova and Silvia Ruskova – shared with the audience the successful accreditation of the specialty in the regulated professions

"Pharmacy" with an educational qualification degree "Master's Degree in Pharmacy". The total accreditation score was 9.06 (with a maximum of 10) with a validity of 6 (six) years and an increased capacity of 300 to 450 students. The higher grade of accreditation automatically means admission of 90 students on public contract in the specialty "Pharmacy" annually and the right to declare paid admission within the spare capacity. At the moment, a total of 131 students are enrolled in the Faculty of Pharmacy - 60 freshmen, 44 2nd year and 30 3rd year students.

The focus of this year's edition of Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Days was the adoption of new rules for good pharmaceutical practice as well as the approval and implementation of the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union Code of Conduct in the field of retail trade in medicinal products. The Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Days scientific program also included other important topics for the pharmaceutical community in Bulgaria, such as the specifics of professional communication, as well as a workshop on strategies for managing workplace stress.

Original material by: V.Dukova



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RECTOR OF MU-PLEVEN, PROF. DR. SLAVCHO TOMOV, MD



Host: The Meeting of Society of European Robotic Gynaecological Surgery (SERGS) will be held in Sofia from September 26 to

28. The event is organized under the auspices of the Medical University - Pleven and the Bulgarian Association for Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery. The Rector of the Medical University of Pleven, Prof. Slavcho Tomov is the chairman of the scientific committee of the forum. I am very pleased to have Professor Tomov as our guest. Welcome!

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: Good afternoon!

Host: Prof. Tomov, Bulgaria will host the European Congress for the first time. Is it easy to get to host such an event, given that the most distinguished scientists in the field from all over the world will be coming to Sofia?

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: It was not easy at all, because the procedure for selecting a host city is quite complicated. But in the end, we succeeded. We actually achieved this two years ago. At that point, we already knew that the 11th Congress Meeting of Society of European Robotic Gynaecological Surgery (SERGS) would be held in Sofia.

Host: So to be the host is not as simple as just applying for it?

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: Definitely not, it is a competition between different capitals. We fought with Barcelona, Istanbul, etc. You must understand how challenging the competition was.

Host: Why, Professor Tomov, is it important for a country to host such a forum?

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: This is a very prestigious event just from the purely professional side of things and such events are also important for Bulgaria, which will be visited by world-renowned scientists, robotic surgeons across the ocean and the Far East.

Host: More than 300 professionals from around the world are expected to

attend the congress. The mere possibility of communicating with such luminaries in this field of medicine is, in itself, alluring enough for all Bulgarian doctors, who I hope are still able to join the forum if they wish.

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: Yes, that's right, registration is still in progress. The early registration period has passed, now we've entered the next stage of registration. We were able to achieve, as organizers, preferential fees for Bulgaria and the countries of the region, which is a great advantage, because it will allow students to participate in the forum for the first time - students from all four medical universities.

Host: As far as I understand, the program provides for a special demonstration of 3D training by broadcasting 3D live surgery. That sounds very interesting. Would you like to tell us more?

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: Yes, of course. This is something really interesting and very special. For the first time in Bulgaria, 3D live surgery will be demonstrated. The operation will be broadcast live in the auditorium of Sofia University, where the forum will be held. This is something unique that is happening for the first time in Bulgaria and is also the first time a transmission of a three-dimensional signal will be made at such a long distance (150km) in the history of the Society of European Robotic Gynaecological Surgery (SERGS).

Host: One more thing I'd like to ask you about is the application of the high-tech technology. The general public knows little about this type of technology. What is it, really, and what are its prospects?

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: This is a new, modern, extremely specific method for the treatment of solid tumors with high intensity ultrasound. Special equipment is required for this. The city of Pleven and St. Marina University Hospital were the first to get such an apparatus in Bulgaria. For over 5 years, we have accumulated vast experience in the treatment of some malignant but also some benign tumors. Uterine

fibroids are the most common tumors to be treated with HIFU. At this conference, we will be demonstrating, again live, with a connection from the HIFU center in Pleven to the halls of Sofia University, the HIFU treatment of a patient with uterine fibroids, which will also happen for the first time.

Host: This is a special operation because there are no cuts, no blood, not even a minimal risk of infection for the patient?

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: That's right. The operation is done remotely. This is a type of the so-called scarless surgery, that is, remote from the body with no incision.

Host: At the same time, however, it is a technology that allows for extreme precision and treatment of a specific area of the body.

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: Yes, that's right. We have to be really very precise and that is why the additional devices and apparatus that are used during this operation are of utmost help. The precise refinement of the ultrasonic beam in a matter of millimeters at the point to be targeted is a challenging procedure.

Host: Prof. Tomov, one personal question, if I may. Are you at all worried before this congress? Obviously, it will be interesting, but also very demanding, given the level of participants in the event.

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: There is definitely an anxious feeling. We, Professor Gorchev and I, have long wanted this to happen. We have made considerable efforts to achieve it. And now, that we are on the final line of preparation, the tension is mounting, but the excitement is also increasing.

Host: The success of this congress will be not only a success for the Medical University - Pleven, but also for the healthcare field in general in Bulgaria. As background to this conversation we are having with you now, it seems to me that in Bulgaria, healthcare is a controversial topic. On the one hand there are ambulances that are not well equipped for basic first aid and on the other - there is everything you're

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telling us about today.

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: I will not and do not want to evaluate Bulgarian healthcare now. But I would like to say the following: at present, in Bulgaria, in every area of the health care system, highly qualified specialists are employed who do exemplary work. There are currently places and hospitals in Bulgaria that are of a very high technological level, which is not inferior to that of European and international standards. Everything else is a matter of organization and proper utilization of

resources.

Host: It was extremely pleasant talking to you, Prof. Tomov. Once again, this congress being hosted in Bulgaria will be a major step in general for the country and for healthcare, for not only doctors, but also students will have the opportunity to participate in it and to draw experience from the most prominent scientists in the sphere.

Prof. Slavcho Tomov: Yes, indeed. I think that this will be an extremely serious and exciting forum that will represent Bulgaria's healthcare to

Europe and the world with dignity.

Host: I wish you the best of luck!

The full original interview by Rositsa Angelova, radio Focus:
http://www.focus-news.net/opinion/2019/08/27/50975/prof-slavcho-tomov-mu-pleven-za-prav-pat-v-balgariya-shte-bade-demonstrirana-hirurgiya-na-zhivo-v-3d-format.html?fbclid=IwAR0QZ-jDmZ6v19xbbpQPvBHgbpyl_wyG5AtmCo7OxXFL-RC8UeNuuZ5BRtY

THE EARLY REGISTRATION FOR THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EUROPEAN ROBOTIC GYNAECOLOGICAL SURGERY (SERGS) WILL CONTINUE UNTIL LATE JULY



The European Annual Congress of Robotic Gynecologic Surgery (11th Annual Meeting of the Society of European Robotic Gynecological Surgery (SERGS) will be held from 26 to 28 September

2019 at the Aula of St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia under the motto "Beyond Borders". The main message of the forum is to "cross the boundaries" of standard thinking, classical medicine and conventional surgery.

The event is organized under the auspices of the Medical University - Pleven and the Bulgarian Association for Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery. Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Rector of the Medical University - Pleven, second term member of the Council of the Society of

European Robotic Gynecological Surgery (SERGS), is the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the forum. Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, Honorary Rector of the Medical University - Pleven, will be the President of the Congress in Bulgaria. The forum will attract to our country a whole host of top-notch surgeons from the US and Europe in the field of minimally invasive and robot-assisted surgery, who will deliver plenary reports, sharing their experience and vision for the development of new technologies and robotics.

Plenary lectures at the European Robotics Forum in Sofia will be delivered by leading surgeons from the USA and Europe, such as Camran Nezhat (USA), Pedro Ramirez (USA), Robert Holloway (USA), Richard Satava (USA), Jan Persson (Sweden), Angelo Maggioni (Italy), Rainer Kimmig (Germany) and others.

For the first time in SERGS' history, after arrangements with the host institution, Bulgarian students, trainees and specialists, have been provided preferential registration fees: <https://sofia.sergs.org/registration/>. Additional information about the event at: <https://sofia.sergs.org>.

THE NEPHROLOGY AND DIALYSIS CLINIC AT UMHAT DR. G.STRANSKI - PLEVEN RECEIVED NEW, CUTTING EDGE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

New, state-of-the-art equipment, meeting the latest world standards, has been received by the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis at the Dr G. Stranski Hospital in Pleven. The equipment was purchased with a targeted allocation of funds from the Ministry of Health, which amounted to BGN 300 thousand. All obsolete equipment of the Clinic, the operating BBD of which has exceeded the maximum allowed 30 thousand working hours, has been replaced. There are already 7 new hemodialysis equipment sets in operation, as well as 2 sets of equipment for water treatment for hemodialysis patients.

"The new acquisition of the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis was made in Germany by leading manufacturers in the industry and meets all the most up-to-date world standards," said the Head of the Clinic, Prof. Dr. Vasil Todorov, MD.



FREE PULMONARY EXAMINATIONS TOOK PLACE IN PLEVEN

On August 2, 2019, free lung examinations (spirometry) were conducted at the Clinic of Pneumology and Phthisiology at Dr. G. Stranski hospital, Pleven. The initiative was held on the Open Days of the National Patient Campaign "Pulmonary Health in All Policies" and was aimed at early prevention of chronic pulmonary diseases.



18 EXPECTANT MOTHERS VISITED THE OG DEPARTMENT AT UMHAT DR. G. STRANSKI, PLEVEN

On August 7, 2019, a meeting with 18 expectant mothers took place during the Open Doors Day at Dr. G. Stranski University Hospital. The Obstetrics and Gynecology department opened its doors on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week, which is traditionally held in early August. Pregnant women were introduced to the clinics at the department and allowed to visit the delivery room. They received answers to many questions about the types of anesthesia at birth, their first contact with the baby, and what they should do when the baby is given to them after birth.



SUCCESS FOR THE STUDENTS OF MU-PLEVEN AT THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY, 2019

25 students and 2 lecturers from the Sports Section of Medical University - Pleven, took part in the 2019 Summer University, which is organized annually by the National Student Council Representation. The delegation of the Medical University - Pleven performed brilliantly, bringing three prizes to the university in the following disciplines:

CHESS - 2nd place (silver) competitors: Veronica Vassileva, Anatoli Tonev, Vasil Kramolinski

TUG OF WAR - 2nd place (silver) competitors: Borislav Terziyski, Anatoli Tonev, Nikolay Taskov, Vasil Kramolinski, Ilian Vardarkov, Alexander Dimitrov, Alexander Ivanov, Anton Kramolinski, Tsvetina Ivanova, Yoana Parvanova, Evgeniya Parvanova

SWIMMING TEAM - 3rd place (bronze) - competitors: Zhivko Yovchev, Alexander Dimitrov, Borislav Terziyski

Information provided by: Konstantina Karkadieva, Student Council President, MU-Pleven



THE HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED INTERNATIONAL DAY AT MU-PLEVEN



For the seventh consecutive year, we (the Student Council at MU-Pleven) are proud to announce the most anticipated event of the year - International Day! The initiative takes place in November at the Sports Complex of MU - Pleven and is organized by AIMS Pleven, Student Council and AISB - Pleven. This year's International Day will be held on November 9, 2019 at the Sports Complex "Prof. Dr. Nedko Kyuchyuk", MU - Pleven. We would like to encourage all students of MU - Pleven to take part in it! The main purpose of the event is to celebrate unity in diversity among all students at our university. International Day will include a talent show for students from different countries; will be filled with many colors from the beautiful national costumes of our participants, as well as promote delicious exotic dishes. There are prizes for the participating teams and the best ones can look forward to even more awards.

International Day was also created for the purpose of charity. The proceeds this year will go to a local charity cause, which we will announce in a timely manner.

Information: Student Council at MU-Pleven

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