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THE MEDICAL DOCTORS FROM CLASS 2018 OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE HAVE OFFICIALLY GRADUATED

With a solemn ceremony held on March 30, 2018 in the Magnum Hall of the Second Clinical Center, MU-Pleven honored the graduation of the 15th class of international students. The Medical University of Pleven is known as the first higher school of education in the country, which in 1997 introduced medical education for international students entirely in English. The first class of physicians graduated in 2003.

The promotion of the 36 International Students of the 2018 Class of Medicine was attended by representatives of the leadership of the university, lecturers and students, as well as the relatives of the graduates. The celebration was led by Prof. Angelina Stoyanova, Head of the



Center for International Students. The Academic Leadership was represented by Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Rector of MU-Pleven; Deputy Rector of Educational Activities, Professor Margarita Alexandrova; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Asparuh Asparuhov and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Dobromir Dimitrov.

Medical graduates from 10 countries - Great Britain, India, Greece, Turkey, Nigeria, Denmark, Germany, Albania, Japan and Canada - received a Master's degree and the professional qualification Medical Doctor after successfully completing the 6-year course in the Medicine specialty. The average success rate of the 2012-2018



Alumni is very good, with 10 graduates holding the highest score of "Excellent 6", six of whom are from the UK, three from Nigeria and one from Canada.

Parents and relatives of foreign graduates witnessed the solemn giving of the Hippocratic Oath by the young doctors. For the third consecutive year, a special ritual, borrowed from American universities, was carried out - passing the white gowns from the parents to their children, symbolizing the transition from training to medical practice. The ceremony ended with Europe's hymn "Ode to Joy" and the traditional casting of the academic hats in the air.



115 HEALTHCARE SPECIALISTS GRADUATED

On April 20, 2018 at Magnum Auditorium, Second Clinical Center "Prof. Dr. Marin Ganchev" a solemn promotion of 115 bachelors and masters from the Faculty of Public Health took place. The Hippocratic oath was given by the graduating four specialties of the faculty: 19 Bachelor degree graduates from "Medical rehabilitation and Ergotherapy" specialty, class 2017; 11 Bachelors of specialty "Protection and Control of Public Health", class 2017; 25 Bachelors of specialty "Health Care Management", class 2018; 33 Master degree graduates in Health Care Management, 2017 and 2018 and 27 Masters in Public Health and Health Management - 2018.

The graduates were congratulated by the Rector of the Medical University - Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov. In his address, Prof. Tomov said: "It is alarming that the medical staff and specialists leave our country. They do

FROM THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

so mainly because of the remuneration of their labor, but a lot of them leave the country because of the disorders in the health system itself. They leave because of the impossibility of professional development, scientific research, specialization and further qualification." He added that "Although comparatively young, the Medical University of Pleven is developing dynamically and manages to maintain its level of innovation, provide quality education, access to high technology and suitable conditions for scientific and career development."

The Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, Prof. Dr. Silvia Yankulovska also addressed the graduates. In a statement for the BTA, she assured that many of the graduates are already assigned to work, the training they have received is in line with European



standards for medical education and their diplomas are well-

recognized in countries in Europe and around the world.

On the behalf of the students, Maria Plamenova Getova, who received a reward as the valedictorian, presented a carefully-worded greeting



PROF. DR SLAVCHO TOMOV WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE COUNCIL OF THE RECTORS

Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Rector of the Medical University - Pleven, is the newly elected member of the Management Board of the Rectors' Council. For the first time, a Rector of a medical university was elected to the Board of Directors of the Rectors' Council of all 52 higher education institutions on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.



SEMINAR ON THE "DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTERS" WAS HELD IN THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLEVEN

Pleven is the second city to take part in the preparation of the "Development of Regional Research Centers" procedure under the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth". The aim of the procedure is to promote the interaction between science and business in all four targets of the Innovation Strategy for Intelligent Specialization - "Informatics and ICT", "Mechatronics and Clean Technologies", "Industry for Healthy Life and Biotechnology" and "New Technologies in Creative and Recreational industries". Six are the planned meetings by regions for the preparation of the procedure. The regional meetings aim not only to clarify the aims of the procedure but also to promote the pooling of interest and resources between research organizations on the ground, regional businesses and local authorities to participate in project proposals. In addition, organizers expect feedback from the participants on the importance and benefits of setting up regional science centers in partnership with all interested parties. Taking into account the potential availability in each region, a better distribution of public investment in research will be achievable.

The seminar was held at the Ambroise Pare Hall of the Medical University. Its organizers were the Managing Authorities of the "Science and Education for Smart Growth" and "Innovation and Competitiveness" Operational Programs. Official guests of the event were the Rector of MU-Pleven Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, the Deputy District Governor of Pleven Tatiana Bozhinova, Mayor of Pleven Municipality Georg Spartanski, the Executive Director of IA "Operational Program" Science and Education for Smart Growth", Kiril Geratliev. Representatives of the scientific and academic community, business, and local authorities from the

Northwest Region were invited to attend the workshop.

The event was opened by the rector of MU-Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, Mayor of Pleven Municipality, Georg Spartanski, Tatyana Bozhinova, Deputy Regional Governor of Pleven, and Executive Director of IA "Operational Program" Science and Education for Smart Growth "to MES, Kiril Geratliev.

The topics presented by the lecturers varied: "Innovation Strategy for Intelligent Specialization of the Republic of Bulgaria 2014-2020 (Progress)", Mr. Stefan Uzunov, Consultant at the Ministry of Economy; "National Road Map for the Scientific Infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria", Dr. Milena Damianova, Director of the Science Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science. The results of the Operational Program "Innovation and Competitiveness" were presented by a representative of the "European Funds for Competitiveness" Directorate at the Ministry of Economy.



MU-PLEVEN WILL HOST THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL HIFU CONFERENCE IN JUNE

The second International HIFU Conference on "Current Clinical Practice and Future Avenues" will be held on 08 June 2018 at the Telecommunications Endoscopic Center at the Medical University - Pleven. The aim of the forum is to make a final report on the results of the bilateral research project entitled "Study of the Possibilities of HIFU Technology for Treatment of Myalgia in Bulgarian and Chinese Patients as a Non-invasive alternative to the established surgical method." The Bilateral Project is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Scientific Research Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria. Partners of the project are Medical University - Pleven, the HIFU Center at University Hospital - Pleven and

the Second Associated University Hospital, University of Chongqing, China. The Second Forum will become a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experience among specialists in various clinical applications of HIFU.

High-intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) has been introduced and developed as an innovative non-invasive method for thermal ablation of benign and malignant solid tumors over the past 17 years. For its 5-year experience The HIFU Center at the University Hospital "Sveta Marina" - Pleven, Bulgaria, under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Dobromir Dimitrov, has become one of the "Centers of Excellence" in Europe and accumulated a rich experience of almost 500 noninvasive ultrasound ablation.



THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SPECIALTY AT THE MEDICAL COLLEGE - PLEVEN HELD A SCIENTIFIC FORUM TO CELEBRATE ITS 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

With a scientific forum titled "10 Years of Innovation in Training, Experience and Practice", the "Social Activities" specialty at Medical College - Pleven celebrated its 10th anniversary. The official opening of the forum was on March 22 in Magnum Hall, Second Clinical Base. The purpose of the two-day forum was to discuss possibilities for cooperation, innovation and exchange of good practices to modernize and strengthen the training and education systems of future social work professionals. Representatives of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

and the Ministry of Education and Science were official guests of the event. A special guest at the forum was Prof. Nina Atanasova, Scientific Secretary of the Biomedical and Quality of Life Department at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

In the two days of the forum, scientific papers were presented by lecturers from SWU "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad, VTU "St. St. Cyril and St. Methodius", Angel Kanchev University of Rousse and Stara Zagora's Trakia University.



THE FACULTY OF HEALTH CARE AT MU-PLEVEN CELEBRATED THE 10th YEAR SINCE ITS CREATION WITH A SCIENTIFIC FORUM

The foundation of the Faculty was set in 26/06/2006 with the opening of the Department of Nursing and Obstetrics Care at the Faculty of Public Health. As a key major unit in the structure of the Medical University - Pleven, the Faculty of Health Care was approved by a decision of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria dated 16.10.2008.

For the past 10 years, 496 nurses and 222 midwives have graduated from the Faculty of Health Care.

The 10th Anniversary of the Health Care Faculty was also celebrated during the 6th National Student Session "Healthcare in the 21st Century - Challenges and Perspectives", which took place on 22-23 March. The event was organized with the support and courtesy of the NPP Kozloduy EAD.



THE TRADITIONAL DAY OF THE STUDENT CANDIDATE AT MU-PLEVEN WAS HELD ON MARCH 8th THIS YEAR

On March 8, the traditional "Student Candidate Day" was held at the Medical University - Pleven under the motto "We Succeed Together". In the framework of the Candidate Student Campaign 2018, the university opened its doors for students from high schools in the city and the region, their teachers and parents. They were welcomed at 13.30 by students and lecturers in the foyer of the Telecommunication Endoscopic Center at MU-Pleven.

The opening of the Candidate's Day was with a presentation video about the University, after which the Deputy Rector of Training Prof. M.Alexandrova welcomed all the guests of the event. Candidate students

were able to get acquainted with the high-tech innovations in training through talks and discussions with the most prominent faculty members and students of the university. In the unique 3D education studio, the students could immerse themselves in the three-dimensional space of human anatomy through the surgeon's eyes thanks to a demonstration of Surgery in 3D format.

The chairpersons of the committees for evaluation of both the biology and chemistry state examinations provided them with additional information on the application and grading as well as the timetable for the exams.



5TH MODERN SCHOOL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY WAS HELD AT MU-PLEVEN

The Association of Medical Students in Bulgaria - Pleven, with the assistance of the Students Council at the Medical University - Pleven, under the patronage of the Rector of the Medical University - Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov, PhD organized, for the fifth consecutive year, a Modern School of Obstetrics and Gynecology. It took place from April 27th to 28th at Medical University - Pleven. The main topic of the event was the problem of women's health and problems concerning the fetus - prevention, diagnostics, methods of treatment of the diseases of the female reproductive system

and mammary gland, pregnancy and the possible complications, fetal surgery as well as multidisciplinary approaches to solving the related problems. Participating students, graduates, PhD students, young doctors and midwives had the opportunity to enrich their medical knowledge and learn about the latest methods and innovations in the fields of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Those willing to submit the results of their research papers were given this opportunity during the specially-organized sessions.



ERASMUS + INFORMATION DAY WAS HELD AT MU – PLEVEN

On April 18, the 'European Integration and International Cooperation' department organized an Erasmus + Information Day for all students, PhD students and lecturers at MU-Pleven. The event was held in the Ambroise Pare Hall of Medical University-Pleven. It presented an opportunity for student, doctoral and teaching mobility for the purpose of training / teaching under the Erasmus + Program during the academic year 2018/2019.

Within the information day, the participants in the room learned about the conditions they had to meet to apply; selection criteria; the Partners of the University of Medicine - Pleven among the European universities; the amount of funding granted (Erasmus + grant); procedures for recognizing the mobility period; application deadlines, etc.

The participants evaluated the event through an electronic data processing system in the form of a poll. The Information Day received an excellent assessment in the categories of transparency and usefulness of the Erasmus + information.



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MEETING WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

On April 18th, at 14.00 am, a meeting with the potential and current employers of the students from the Medicine and Health Care Faculties, graduating this year, took place in Ambroise Pare Hall. The meeting was organized by the Career Development Center of MU-Pleven. 86 students and 16 representatives of medical establishments from Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Pavel Banya and the Labor Directorate - Pleven attended. Future graduates were informed about the state of the labor market, working conditions and opportunities for specialization and career advancement.



THE TRADITIONAL CHARITY MARKET "THE 'MARTENITSI' - TOGETHER IN PRESERVING THE TRADITION" WAS HELD ONCE AGAIN AT MU-PLEVEN

The students of specialty "Social activities" of the Medical College of MU-Pleven organized, from 26th to 28th of February, a charity bazaar called "Martenitza - Together in Preserving the Tradition". The Bazaar/Exhibition was part of the events preceding the World Social Work Day and the Action Week (19.03 - 23.03.2018) and was held with the support and assistance of the Rector of MU-Pleven, Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov. The traditional charity bazaar attracted many guests, including the MP Vladislav Nikolov, the Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Pleven, Petya Vasileva and the President of the National Orphan Association, Slavi Mihaylov.

The aim of the initiative is to encourage the creativity of people with disabilities and to enable them to showcase and develop their creative potential by including 'Martenitsi' in the Baba Marta Workshop. Furthermore, the bazaar exhibition allows international students to learn about a unique Bulgarian tradition. The funds raised from the sale of the martenitsi will be used to support socially disadvantaged students from the schools in Pleven and the district at their Prom day.

Martenitsi were jointly made and knitted by the students at MU-Pleven as well as social services beneficiaries on the territory of the city of Pleven. Amongst them: Mental Health Center - Pleven, Protected Housing for Elderly People with Mental Disabilities - Pleven, Center for Special Educational Support "P. R. Slaveikov", Day Care Center for Disabled People and the Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration



A SEMINAR FOR INTERNATIONAL RARE DISEASE DAY WAS HELD AT MU-PLEVEN, CALLED "ADDING LIFE"



International Day of Rare Diseases - Feb. 28th was celebrated in Pleven with a seminar under the motto "Adding Life". It was part of the National Alliance of People with Rare Diseases (NAPRB) seminars program.

The Forum in Galen Hall of the Telecommunication Center at the Medical University -

Pleven gathered doctors, students, patients and their relatives. The opening address was made by the NAPRB chairman Vladimir Tomov.

The cycle of lectures included in the seminar program was met with great interest by the audience. The first topic was related to myelofibrosis and was presented by Dr. Dorothea Todorieva-Todorova, Assistant Professor at Clinic

of Clinical Hematology at the University Hospital "Dr. Georgi Stranski", Pleven. Dr. Emil Paskalev from the Clinic of Nephrology and Transplantation of University Hospital "Aleksandrovska", Sofia delivered a lecture titled "Faber's disease - diagnostics is possible. Achievements of the Expert Center in the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Disease". Assoc. Prof. Gergana Petrova from the Children's Clinic at the University Hospital "Alexandrovska", Department of Pediatrics, Sofia University, presented the "Frequent Rare Disease Cystic Fibrosis" lecture. The topic "Phenylketonuria", was presented by Dr. Adil Kadum, Clinic of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Genetic Diseases, "Prof. Ivan Mitev", Sofia, Medical University - Sofia. The last lecture "Congenital Ichthyoses - Clinical Forms, Diagnosis and Treatment" was presented by Prof. Yordanova from the Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Dermatology at MU-Pleven.



Georgi Stranski

Georgi Stranski was born on 13 August [O.S. 1 August] 1847 in Kalofer, a Sub-Balkan town in Rumelia, or the European part of the Ottoman Empire (today in central Bulgaria). In 1864, he moved to Bucharest, at the time the capital of the autonomous United Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia. In Bucharest, Stranski finished a medical school and graduated in medicine from the University of Bucharest in 1874. He remained in Romania as a professional physician, practicing in Buzru and Bucharest. In 1876, he published the book *Medical Lectures*. While residing in Romania, Stranski was a prominent member of the sizable Bulgarian diaspora there and among the founding members of two of its organizations, the Bulgarian Philanthropic Trusteeship and the Bulgarian Central Charity Society. He was particularly close to his townsman, revolutionary and national poet Hristo Botev (1848-1876), to whom he was best man. During the Serbo-Turkish War of 1876, Stranski served in the Romanian medical mission in Serbia. For the duration of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, which brought about the

liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule, he was an army surgeon in the Romanian Army that fought alongside the Russians.

During the Provisional Russian Government of the Bulgarian lands that preceded the establishment of a Bulgarian government, Stranski was the regional doctor of Plevna. Stranski's political career began with his election to the Constituent Assembly of 1879 and the 1st Ordinary National Assembly of Bulgaria of the same year. In 1879 he settled in Plovdiv, the capital of autonomous Eastern Rumelia, where he continued his medical career and became one of the leaders of the Liberal Party of Eastern Rumelia. He held various high offices in the autonomous province, including Director of Finance (1880-1881), member of the Permanent Committee (1879-1880, 1882-1883) and its chairman (1883-1884), and chairman of the provincial legislative body, the Regional Assembly (1883). As a member of the Bulgarian Secret Central Revolutionary Committee, Stranski was among the most prominent participants in the organization of the Bulgarian unification of 1885, or the accession of Eastern Rumelia to the Principality of Bulgaria. Following the successful accomplishment of the unification, Stranski became the chairman of the province's provisional government, titled Commissar of South Bulgaria. He held the office until the international recognition of the unification on 5 April 1886 by the Treaty of Tophane and the first National Assembly elections in South Bulgaria in the summer of that year.

After the Bulgarian victory in the Serbo-Bulgarian War, Georgi Stranski was appointed Bulgarian diplomatic agent in Belgrade (1886-1887). In Konstantin Stoilov's short-lived government of 1887, Stranski was Minister of Internal Affairs, succeeding Vasil Radoslavov. Under Stefan Stambolov, Stranski held the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religious Denominations (1887-1890), a post he took over from Grigor Nachovich. He was also elected to parliament in the 5th (1887-1890) and 6th (1890-1893) Ordinary National Assembly. Following Stambolov's resignation, Stranski continued his career as a doctor: in 1897-1899 he directed the Aleksandrovska Hospital in Sofia, and in 1899-1900 he was the regional doctor of Ruse. Between 1900 and 1904, Georgi Stranski presided over Bulgaria's Supreme Chamber of Control, the national audit institution. He died on 17 January [O.S. 4 January] 1904 in Sofia.

Source: Wiki

A COURSE ON ARTHROSCOPY OF THE ANKLE JOINT AND FOOT SURGERY TOOK PLACE AT THE MU-PLEVEN TELECOMMUNICATION CENTER



For the fourth consecutive year, a two-day course on ankle joint surgery and foot surgery of a cadaver's foot was held at the Telecommunications Endoscopic Center at the Medical University - Pleven. It is organized by the Bulgarian Association of Arthroscopy and Sports Traumatology (BAAST), together with the Bulgarian Society of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

From March 15-17, 2018, 24 young surgeons from Bulgaria were trained by well-known and established surgeons from the country and abroad. The subject of the course was "Arthroscopy of the Ankle Joint and Surgery of the Foot". The ankle pathology affects mostly young people, often active athletes, as well as professional athletes

pursuing excellence. It also includes sores of the feet that are common and problematic for all age groups.

Dr. Hrvoje Klobucar of the Akromion Special Hospital for Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Zagreb, Croatia, was a special guest at the event. The foreign guests exchanged theoretical knowledge and practical skills with their Bulgarian counterparts, sharing their rich experience. During the course, group discussions were organized to discuss intricate clinical cases from the guest speakers' practice. Participants were given the opportunity to take part in them as well as in the discussions on the most up-to-date approaches to resolving these issues.

The President of the Bulgarian Association of Arthroscopy and Sports Traumatology, Dr. Robert Halvadjian, later commented: "Students have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest surgical techniques in the field and gain practical experience by working with the most advanced endoscopic equipment in the high-tech Endoscopic Center at MU-Pleven. The organizers of the BAAC event called for the initiative to be continued in the coming years and the format to be further expanded."



ONE-DAY COURSE ON ENDOPROSTHESIS OF THE HIP WAS HELD AT "AVIS MEDICA" MULTI-PROFILE HOSPITAL – PLEVEN



A one-day course of hip endoprosthesis was held at "Avis Medica" multi-profile hospital – Pleven in collaboration with Mathys Switzerland and Medical Equipment Engineering Ltd. There were orthopaedic specialists from across the country who exchanged experience with each other and with Dr. Dominik Bosson, one of the leading Swiss surgeons. A team from "Avis Medica" Hospital, lead by Dr. Robert

Halvadjian together with Dr. Dominic Bonson, an established surgeon from Switzerland, performed two surgical interventions for complete hip replacement. The new for Bulgaria Anatomical Short Stem - Optimys - was used for the first time. It allows for the use of minimally-invasive techniques and a high level of bone retention, which is strongly advisable for young and active patients.



THE CURRENT HEALTH CARD PROPOSAL WILL CONSERVE THE ALREADY EXISTING LEVELS OF HEALTHCARE IN THE PLEVEN REGION

The Committee for the Concretization and Elaboration of the Regional Health Card in Pleven region, formed in accordance to a direct order of the Minister of Health, drafted a proposal which was later approved during a meeting of the Committee. The Proposal is in line with the written methodology of the Ministry of Health. The meeting was chaired by the regional Governor, Miroslav Petrov. It was attended by Deputy Regional Governor Dr Krasimir Trifonov, representatives of municipalities, RHIF,

RHI, representatives of local authorities and professional organizations. The proposal was presented by Dr. Vania Ivanova from RZI - Pleven. She had prepared a health-demographic chart of the population of Pleven region, according to which the situation in the area is similar to that in the whole country - predominantly aging population, mostly concentrated in the cities. There is negative population growth everywhere. The incidence of diseases of the Circulatory System is the most prevalent. Dr. Ivanova stressed that in the territory of Pleven District there is good coverage of all settlements concerning primary medical care and this will be maintained in the future as it is also reflected in the proposal for the district health card. There are 230 doctors specializing in outpatient care. The beds in the hospital facilities on the territory of the Pleven district, the specialized equipment and doctors, the provision of pre-hospital medical assistance generally meet the needs of the population and the health-demographic data. At the meeting, the proposal was later approved. After a final technical check, the proposal will be sent to the IB and detailed justification will be attached to all submitted data to keep and protect the existing levels of the healthcare system





THE TEAM OF PROF. GORCHEV PERFORMED A RARE AND COMPLEX OPERATION TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A PATIENT AND HER BABY

Extremely rare and complicated life-saving surgery of a young pregnant woman with cervical cancer was performed by Member of Cor. Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, MD and his team at the Department of Gynecology at "St. Marina" University Hospital in Pleven. With two concurrent interventions - caesarean section with immediately subsequent radical hysterectomy and total pelvic lymph dissection, they managed to save both the fetus and the patient. Currently the baby boy and his mother are in a good condition.

During a routine examination in a female consultation, the young patient in the advanced stages of pregnancy reported bleeding. After a thorough gynecological examination, cervical cancer was diagnosed. She was immediately referred to Prof. Gorchev at the University Hospital "Sveta Marina" - Pleven. The woman was adamant in her desire to keep her unborn child and not terminate the pregnancy. This necessitated the simultaneous execution of two complex operations to save the life of the mother and her child. The interventions were carried out by a team of highly qualified specialists. The first obstetric surgery - a cesarean delivery, was carried out by Dr. Pepo Partenov, Head of the OG Clinic at "Sveta Marina" - Pleven, and the second, gynecological intervention - radical hysterectomy for removal of the uterus with lymph dissection, was performed by Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev. He later commented on the case: "The complex double operation was life-saving for the young woman and was the only possible solution in terms of resolving her oncologic illness and enabling her to give birth to a healthy child." Prof. Gorchev advises pregnant women to visit women's counseling offices regularly and to conduct all routine, prophylactic examinations and investigations.



PROF. GORCHEV MET WITH ONE OF HIS FIRST PATIENTS, SAVED BY THE ROBOTIC HANDS OF THE "DA VINCHI" MODULE

Member of Cor. Prof. Dr. Grigor Gorchev, MD, the first proponent and initiator of robotic surgery in Bulgaria, who has performed more than 1,200 robot-assisted operations, met 10 years after the fact with one of the first women to undergo an intervention with the Da Vinci robot.

The emotional story of Desislava Zlatkovska, who lives a second life thanks to the high-tech miracle "Da Vinci" and the hands of the surgeon who runs it, is fascinating. Ten years ago, the young woman was diagnosed with "cervical cancer". Desislava, then 28, opted to trust Prof. Gorchev, agreeing to a robot-assisted operation. A complete hysterectomy was made that deprived the young woman of the opportunity to become a mother and have her own children, but it gave her a second life.

After 10 years, thanks to the hands of Prof. Gorchev and the innovative Da Vinci surgical technology, the young woman is keen to face the camera and convey her message to the thousands of women with similarly severe diagnoses. And the message is simple, "There is always a chance to live, if you believe in yourself, believe in the miracle called life, in the beauty of tomorrow." Among the audience that was touched by Desi's emotional and frank story was also Prof. Grigor Gorchev. The two, a doctor and a patient, met to have a chat off-camera, sharing their feelings and thoughts. The meeting was exciting for both of them. Desi shared with Prof. Gorchev her dream of becoming a foster parent and taking care of abandoned children. She believes she can be a full-fledged mother for children without families and give them the warmth and affection they deserve.



THE RECTOR OF MU-PLEVEN WAS RECENTLY NAMED "HONORABLE CITIZEN OF PLEVEN MUNICIPALITY"

At the extraordinary session of the Municipal Council, held in the beginning of April, Ordinance №11 of the Municipal Council on symbolic distinctions and awards was adopted. The commission, established under Article 39, paragraph 1 of the new Ordinance, met on 16.04.2018 to discuss the three proposals for granting the title "Honorable Citizen of Pleven Municipality". Suggested were:

- Ivan Mindilikov, citizen and public figure, politician and Mayor of Pleven from 1924 to 1931. The proposal was submitted by Dr. Volodya Popov - Director of the Regional Museum of History.

- Prof. Radko Radev, MD, Head of Department of Anesthesiology, Resuscitation and Intensive Care at "Dr. Georgi Stranski" University Hospital - Pleven. The proposal was submitted by the 'Justice' Association.

- Prof. Slavcho Tomov, MD, Rector of the Medical University - Pleven. The proposal was submitted by the Chairman of the Municipal Council Martin Mitev and by Mayor Georg Spartanski.

The Chairman of the Commission, according to the Ordinance, is the Chairman of the Municipal Council Martin Mitev, and the members - the Chairmen of Standing Committees in the Municipal Council and the members of the Culture, Religious Denominations and International Activities of the Municipal Council in Pleven. All 18 members of the Commission attend the meeting. Three proposals for awarding the title "Honorable Citizen of Pleven Municipality" were discussed. According to the procedure adopted by the Ordinance, following a Commission decision, the written proposal for granting the



title "Honorable Citizen of Pleven" is submitted to a meeting of the Pleven Municipal Council and is adopted with the votes of two thirds of the total number of municipal councilors.

Unanimously, the decision of the Commission in the Municipal Council of Pleven was to submit a proposal pertaining to Mr. Ivan Mindilikov and Prof. Dr. Slavcho Tomov being awarded the title "Honorable Citizen of Pleven". Regarding the candidacy of Prof. Radko Radev, it was decided to make a proposal to the Mayor of Pleven Municipality for his awarding of a Certificate of Merit to the Municipality of Pleven.

The titles and any corresponding paraphernalia will be handed over at a solemn gathering of the Municipal Council on the occasion of the Day of Pleven - 15 May.



"Academia medica"



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ СЪЮЗ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ СТРУКТУРНИ И
ИНВЕСТИЦИОННИ ФОНДОВЕ



ОПЕРАТИВНА ПРОГРАМА
НАУКА И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ ЗА
ИНТЕЛИГЕНТЕН РАСТЕЖ

A NEW TARGET GROUP WAS FORMED TO START THE SECOND CYCLE OF ACTIVITY ON THE PROJECT OF "ESTABLISHING A TRAINING CENTER FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS, POST-DOC, SPECIALIZATION STUDENTS AND YOUNG SCIENTISTS AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, MU-PLEVEN"

With a new target group of 46 graduates, postgraduates and young scientists started the second cycle of Activity 1 and Activity 2 under Project № BG05M2OP001-2.009-0031-C01 "Establishing a training center for PhD students, post-doctoral students, specialization students and young scientists at the Faculty of Medicine, MU-Pleven." The project is funded under the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth" 2014-2020, co-financed by the European Union through the European Structural and Investment Funds with a grant amounting to BGN 695 631,34 and an implementation period of 21 months.

The Target Group of Activity 2, termed "Personalized Approach to Preoperative Preparation and Operative Treatment of Patients through Minimally Invasive Surgery based on Imaging Reconstructions, 3D Visualization and

Virtual Simulation", includes 19 PhD students, postgraduates and young scientists from surgical specialties. From March 23rd to April 13th, 2018, the members of the group underwent training on Module 1 "Fundamentals of Imaging Diagnostics" with expert lecturers from the Department of Radiology, Prof. Nacho Totsev, Head of the Department, Dr. L. Tsankov and Dr. M. Vlahov. The entire second training cycle of Activity 2 will continue for a total of 6 months and includes six modules:

1. Fundamentals of Imaging Diagnostics (Computed Tomography, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, X-ray and Ultrasound)
2. Spotted Post-processing - Types, Applications and Benefits for Clinical Practice

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3. Virtual simulation and 3D visualization
4. Virtual dissection and pre-operative planning
5. Training on the operation of a virtual simulator for minimally invasive surgery
6. Minimally Invasive Surgery and Working in an Experimental Operating Room

The aim of the training modules of Activity 2 of the project is for young scientists to acquire practical skills and

motivation for sustainable academic development by working in a real environment with appropriate scientific equipment. The expected result is for PhD students, young doctors and graduates to develop the necessary analytical skills for research, as well as to increase their readiness and adaptability for future professional realization.



UNIQUE ROBOT-ASSISTED OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM OF SURGEONS IN PLEVEN

By utilizing a unique robot-assisted intervention, a multidisciplinary team of surgeons, operated on a 70-year-old patient with advanced bowel cancer. The successful intervention was carried out with the robotized Da Vinci system by the onco-geneology team of Prof. Grigor Gorchev, MD, together with the General Surgery team of Prof. Tashko Delliyski. The innovative part of the operation was the fact that it was simulated preoperatively on the 3D medical table for virtual dissections. The surgeons studied the patient's anatomical vascular varieties discussing the most suitable entry for the robotic system in the abdominal cavity to ensure optimal position for the balanced work of both teams. Such types of surgery are still performed mainly through open surgery, resulting in a great trauma to the patient. The unique multidisciplinary operation of Pleven's Surgical Teams is the first of its kind in Bulgaria, and the worldwide experience in performing such complex operations through robotic systems



is still minimal.

Prof. Gorchev commented on the complicated operation: "After a clinical discussion of the case with surgeons and gynecologists, we decided to perform this extremely complicated operation with the robotized Da Vinci Si system, which simultaneously removes the patient's rectum and uterus, etc. rear pelvic exenteration. At the same time, in order to restore the intestinal tract, an ultra-seminal line of stitching of the colon and rectum is used."

In the present case, the 70-year-old patient was treated following the current rapid recovery protocol applied after minimally invasive surgery: early stimulation, feeding, lack of analgesia, etc. The benefits

to the patient in performing such a type of multidisciplinary robot-assisted interventions are significant reductions in trauma during surgery, faster recovery and a lower percentage of complications. Very few centers use a similar type of surgery in patients with such a clinical diagnosis and situation. The presence at the Medical University of Pleven of three trained, qualified and capable teams in robotic surgery - gynecological, surgical and urological - is an excellent prerequisite for the successful implementation of these innovative multidisciplinary operations.



ALUMNUS OF MULTI-PLEVEN WON AN AWARD IN THE NATIONAL CONTEST FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

In the 9th edition of the competition "Young and Energetic Scientists", organized by the Young Talent Club, Dr. Yordan Hristov, a former graduate of the Medical University of Pleven, won third place. He was among the five finalists of the competition and his project, 'Role of Computerized Navigation in the Soft-Knee Balance at Knee Endoprosthesis,' competed with developments in the fields of information processing, energy, electro-chemistry and management systems. Dr. Hristov presented an innovative method, new for Bulgaria, in which, by means of computer navigation, the knee joint replacement procedure is more accurate and patient-friendly. It also increases the life of the joints, and the possibility of committing human errors during the process is reduced to a minimum.

"The competition allowed me to present to a wider audience this innovative medical method for knee endoprosthesis. I sincerely hope that it



will soon be introduced as the gold standard in Bulgarian practice and will be included in the specialization programs focusing on 3D technologies," said Dr. Hristov.

Dr. Yordan Hristov is a doctor, further specializing at the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology, University Hospital "St. Pantaleimon - Pleven", headed by Assoc. Prof. Ventsi Rossmanov and Dr. Plamen Nenov. He graduated from the Medical University - Plevan in 2016 with full honors and was awarded the Golden Hippocrates Prize. He has participated as a lecturer at three international student conferences as well as the XI Conference of the Bulgarian Association of Arthroscopy and Sports Traumatology.

DOCTORS FROM PLEVEN SAVED THE LIFE OF A YOUNG PATIENT BY EXTRACTING A HUGE TUMOR FROM HER OVARY

A tumor formation, weighing a staggering 13.5 kg, was extracted from the ovary of a young woman by a team of doctors from the University Hospital "Dr. Georgi Stranski", Plevan. Prof. Dr. Yordan Popov, Head of the Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University Hospital commented on the case: "The patient presented with several complaints before admission and when we discovered the formation in question, the necessity to operate post haste became immediately obvious. She also had a number of accompanying illnesses that further complicated matters."

The patient was then immediately brought into the Operation Block. A team of surgeons, anesthetist and obstetrician-gynecologist - Prof. Dimitar Stoykov, Dr. Irina Dekova, Dr. Ivan Atmatov, Dr. Slaveiko Bogdanov and Assoc. Prof. Yordan Popov, successfully performed the surgery and removed the tumor formation. It turns out that, apart from its considerable weight, it is also of "envious" size - its diameter is over 50 cm. The following post-operative period was normal. Prof. Popov stressed that the life of the young woman was saved due to the extremely exemplary work ethic and collaboration between the doctors from the individual clinics.



SCHOOL FOR FUTURE PARENTS

A school for future parents, named "Stork" has been opened in Pavlikeni. The initiative is the brainchild of two doctors from the University Hospital "Dr. Georgi Stranski" - Plevan. These are the obstetrician-gynecologists Dr. Polina Vassileva and Dr. Elitsa Gyokova. According to them, the practice of pregnant women and young mothers learning from the Internet is too erroneous, things can often be or go wrong, are misleading and there is an abundance of fake information.

The enthusiastic young doctors are certain that their school will be different - they will try to make pregnancy and childbirth a positive experience. Future parent training will use world-class medical standards and will offer the best that has been achieved so far in obstetrics and gynecology in terms of information and practices. Meetings with learners will be on a monthly basis. The doctors will present various topics related to pregnancy and childbirth, there will be discussion, in which young couples will be able to ask questions and get competent answers.

The Stork meetings will take place once a month in the Conference Hall of the Municipality. The first one was on February 25th, 2018.



MOST DISTINGUISHED STUDENT – 2018

In connection to the forthcoming celebration of May 24 - the Day of Bulgarian Education and Culture and the Slavonic Alphabet, the Management of the MU-Plevan announced a competition for "Most Distinguished Student - 2018". The prize is multi-part and is awarded to both Bulgarian and international students, representatives of all major specialties with excellent grades and active scientifically. The necessary documents certifying them are: assurance of the academic success for the last 2 semesters of the respective Student's office as well as certificates from participation in scientific forums, articles, departmental notes from the corresponding departments and others. The papers were accepted from 02.04 to 27.04.2018 in the Study and Training Department.

The winner of the prize "Excellence in learning Bulgarian by an international student - 2018" will be awarded for a Bulgarian language competition, organized by the Bulgarian language teachers at DLSE, to be held on 11.05.2018 - the day of St. Cyril and Methodius.

The names of the winners will be published on the University's website and the award ceremony will take place on May 24th.

AN UROLOGICAL TEAM FROM PLEVEN SAVES THE LIFE OF A PATIENT WITH THE USE OF A ROBOT-ASSISTED OPERATION

The team of urological surgeons at the Medical University - Pleven carried out a robot-assisted operation that saved a patient's life only two weeks after a pulmonary thromboembolism. The bladder removal of the patient was due to an oncologic disease. This type of surgical intervention is performed for the first time in the country after such a serious illness and at a significant peril of a lethal outcome for the patient. No data are available on other similar cases in the clinical practice.

The patient is a 65-year-old man who was scheduled for radical open surgery bladder removal because of an advanced oncologic disease. During surgery, however, the patient suffered a sudden pulmonary thromboembolism. After a timely intervention by the resuscitators, due to the critical condition of the patient, it was decided to stop the surgery without removing the bladder and initiating life-



saving resuscitation therapy. After stabilizing the patient and bringing him back from the life-threatening condition, consideration was given to whether radiotherapy is to be undertaken without tumor removal or to perform another surgery with a very high risk of recurrence of the pulmonary thromboembolism with a possibly fatal outcome.

According to Dr. Nikolay Kolev, the head of the urology team, postponing the surgery would have led to rapid metastasis and inability to cure. Therefore, he and his colleagues choose a third treatment option - a more gentle operation with the Da Vinci robotic system, allowing the least traumatic, more precise and safe surgical treatment associated with minimal blood loss and rapid recovery. Only two weeks after the first operation, the team of Assoc. Prof. Kolev at MU-Pleven removed the bladder with the tumor with a robot-assisted intervention. During the two-hour surgery, besides the bladder, the adjacent lymph nodes in the pelvis were removed. The operation went through without complications. One week after the surgery, the patient is in good health and will have a chance to lead a meaningful social life.

Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Kolev commented that the success of the surgery and the good condition of the patient are in fact, thanks to the experience gained over the years and the excellent opportunities that the work with the robotic system Da Vinci provides. The Urology Clinic in Pleven was the first in the country to introduce robotic-assisted urological surgery back in 2010 and with the help of the Da Vinci robot all types of malignant diseases of the excretory and male reproductive systems are currently able to be treated.



WITH A CONCERT TITLED "TOGETHER FOR OUR DREAMS" THE MEDICAL COLLEGE - PLEVEN CELEBRATED THE WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL WORK

Students and lecturers of the specialty "Social activities" of the Medical College at the Medical University - Pleven celebrated the Week of Action (19-23 March) and the World Day of Social Work. The events organized by them this year were also dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the specialty. The traditional concert, titled "Together for Our Dreams," was held on March 20, 2018 in Katya Popova Hall, under the patronage of the mayor of Pleven Municipality, Mr. Georg Spartanski. This initiative of the students in the field of social activities and the municipality of Pleven once again fulfilled one of the dreams of beneficiaries of social services from the city of Pleven and the region - to show their creative capabilities on the stage. Representatives of Protected Home for Older People with Mental Disabilities - Pleven participated in the concert as well as the Day Center for Disabled Adults - Pleven; Center for Special Educational Support "P. R. Slaveikov" - Pleven; Family-type placement center on Project: Provision of social services for the local community; 6th FNST for children and young people,



deinstitutionalized form specialized institutions - Pleven; Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration - Pleven; Compound for social services - TSNT 2 - the Town of Pordim, Pordim.

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The event was opened by the Director of the Medical College, Assoc. Prof. Evgenia Barzashka. She greeted all those present in the room, stressing how difficult, responsible and important the work of social workers is and how necessary it is for its beneficiaries.

Isabelle Yaneva, a student from the "Social activities" specialty of the Medical College and the dance group "Aleko Sings and Dances" from the Aleko Konstantinov Professional High School of Tourism - Pleven presented a special greeting to the employees of the social services who work tirelessly to help everyone get a shot at their dreams.



A SCIENTIFIC FORUM GATHERED ENDOCRINOLOGISTS FROM THE WHOLE COUNTRY IN PLEVEN

For the sixth consecutive year on 9th and 10th March, Pleven hosted the 'Pleven Endocrinology Days' 2018. The annual scientific forum was first established by the Clinic of Endocrinology at the University Hospital "Dr. Georgi Stranski" - Pleven, headed by Assoc. Prof. Katya Todorova. The scientific meeting, with the main topic of "Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism", gathered nearly 100 doctors - leading endocrinologists, cardiologists and other specialist from Northwestern and Central Northern Bulgaria. The leading speakers were invited amongst the most prominent Bulgarian professors, lecturers and researchers.

The scientific event is dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Clinic of Endocrinology and its first Head, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lilia Klechkova. She was elected honorary chair of the scientific meeting, and her students and followers had the opportunity to pay tribute to her pioneering work.

Assoc. Prof. Katya Todorova opened the forum and the Administrative Director of the Second Clinical Center, Assoc. Prof. Ivelina Yordanova, introduced the history of

the Pleven's Hospital, one of the oldest in the country. Assoc. Prof. Klechkova spoke about the difficult and meandering path of the Clinic of Endocrinology over the years.

The main scientific themes of the forum were divided into four sessions. The first session, "Cardiological Perspective in the Treatment of Disease and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DM)", pays special attention to the emerging cardiovascular disorders in obesity and type 2 diabetes, which would explain the high incidence of cardiovascular complications and death in patients with these diseases. Globally, the incidence of these complications has almost reached the size of an epidemic, a fact that warrants introducing a new concept, Cardio-Occurrences, a condition that combines cardiovascular and metabolic disorders in obese patients with type 2 diabetes. In the second scientific session "Obesity and its hormonal-metabolic complications" the lecturers - well-known names in Bulgaria and abroad, presented the modern concepts for the role of adipose tissue as a hormonal metabolic organ and its relation to insulin resistance and endothelial



dysfunction in metabolic syndrome.

The third session, under the title "Continuity in Medicine", was a symbolic bridge of academic continuity between teachers and students. It was attended by research physicians who laid the foundations of a scientific study and their students continuing the research in the same field. With the always-developing knowledge provided by the lecturers, the inter-generational link between endocrinology specialists was further strengthened.

During the fourth session of "Sharing Clinical Experience" lecturers presented different clinical cases from their practice, which triggered a lively scientific discussion involving guest lecturers with their rich academic, scientific and clinical experience.



MU-PLEVEN PARTICIPATES IN THE 'PANORAMA OF THE UNIVERSITIES' IN BLAGOEVGRAD

The Medical University of Pleven participated in the 'Panorama of Universities', organized under the guidance of the Center for Personal and Creative Development of the Children of Blagoevgrad. The forum was held on 28 February in the "22 September" Hall in the district town. The meeting gathered together career consultants, representatives from the Central European Center for Research and



Technology and the two elite universities in Blagoevgrad - American University in Bulgaria and SWU "Neofit Rilski" and representatives of 11 other universities from the whole country: Todor Kableskov Higher School of Transport, Sofia; Military Academy "Georgi Stoykov Rakovski", Sofia; University of Forestry, Sofia; Medical

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University, Pleven; National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski", Sofia; New Bulgarian University, Sofia; Economic Academy "Dimitar A. Tsenov", Svishtov; Thracian University - Stara Zagora; University of National and World Economy, Sofia; University of Food Technologies, Plovdiv; University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia. The Director of the Center for Personal and Creative

Development of the Children of Blagoevgrad - Tsvetanka Gavrilova officially introduced the 'Panorama of Universities', which aims at familiarizing students from Blagoevgrad and their parents, with the higher education institutions, getting information about the specialties and the ways to apply for different universities.



IN PLEVEN, A UNIQUE FOR THE COUNTRY OPERATION OF A BRAIN TUMOR WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THE USE OF INTRAOPERATIVE NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE



intraoperative MRI greatly improves the safety and effectiveness of surgery, thus giving an experienced neurosurgical team the best surgical capabilities and achieving optimal results and a high quality of life for the patient with minimal complications." Prof. Nikolay Raynov explains.

For the first time in Bulgaria neurosurgeons from the Heart and Brain Hospital in Pleven operated on a brain tumor with the use of intraoperative nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), neuro-navigation technology and intraoperative ultrasound. The operation with the new technology was carried out by Prof. Nikolay Raynov, a German neurosurgeon of Bulgarian origin. He has been involved in the development of intraoperative nuclear magnetic resonance imaging over the past 20 years in the United States, Great Britain and Germany. MRI-based neuro-navigation technology provides neurosurgeons with a "GPS-like" monitoring of the brain and is the world's highest standard for neuro-surgical technology. "Intraoperative MRI helps our neurosurgical team maximize resection of abnormal brain tissues in the safest way possible. Research has shown that the use of

The patient, Atanas Totlyakov, is 77 years old, from the city of Pazardzhik and was first introduced to Pleven's neurosurgery with severe motor difficulties. He became the first patient to be operated in the new, unique and hi-tech hybrid operating theater. A primary brain tumor - glioma - in the left brain hemisphere was his final diagnose. "This tumor grows in a very specific area of the brain - a very difficult localization, very dangerous for surgery, because without the necessary technology the tumor cannot be removed, only samples are taken, or if removed, the risk of degenerative phenomena or even complete paralysis on the right half of the body is very high," Prof. Nikolay Raynov explains. The combination of intraoperative imaging and virtual planning of a minimal craniotomy with neuro-navigation meets the highest hybrid neurosurgical standards and technologies in the world. It provides

neurosurgeons with a full view of the affected area of the brain in real time in order to determine whether the tumor has been completely removed and to make sure healthy tissue is preserved. This avoids the need for a second operation. Only a day later, the patient could move the arm and leg that were previously immobile.

According to world medical statistics, the incidence of brain tumors is 7 to 10 per 100,000 members of population. Bulgaria is no exception to these tendencies, which means that the disease is found annually in 1,000-1200 people. The numerous advantages of utilizing the intraoperative MRI equipment will lead to its widespread use in the world in the coming years. At present, no more than 15% of all neurosurgical clinics in Germany and the United States are supplied with such high-tech equipment. The new system of intraoperative MRI and its integrated neuron navigation is the first of its kind in Bulgaria and the Balkans, with which Bulgarian medical science and practice is already among the leaders in this important specialty. This equipment, together with highly experienced and qualified medical teams dedicated to science and the preservation of life, turn Heart and Brain into a unique hospital for both Bulgaria and Europe.



NEARLY 800 STUDENT CANDIDATES FROM BULGARIA SAT THE PRELIMINARY EXAMS AT THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLEVEN IN MARCH AND APRIL, 2018

On March 24th and 25th, 2018 at the Medical University of Pleven, the two preliminary examinations were held: Biology - on March 24th, 2018 for the 9 Bachelor's degree programs, and on March 25th, 2018 for the Master's degree courses in Medicine and Pharmacy. On April 14th, the second preliminary exam for the Master's courses - the Chemistry exam - was held.

The admission procedures for the pre-exam

session were completed on March 21st, 2018. As per usual, high-school graduates had the opportunity to apply for an exam in three ways - online through the University's website, at a specific station in the Rectorate building, and through the admissions offices, scattered around the country. A total of 778 candidates submitted their papers for the exams, with 375 preferring the e-enrollment option, 353 enrolling on the spot, and only 50 that had applied through the admission offices.

The biology test on March 24 (Bachelor's) was attended by 139 student candidates and the biology exam on March 25 (Master's), by 601 high-school graduates. At the second preliminary exam in Chemistry on April 14, 598 candidates attended.



MU - PLEVEN WAS REPRESENTED AT THE SECOND NATIONAL STUDENT FESTIVAL OF THE MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES BY BULGARIAN, INDIAN AND NEPAL DANCES

For a second consecutive year, on April 21st, the National Student Festival of Medical Universities in Bulgaria with international participation took place. This time, the organizer and host of the event was the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. The festival was held in the cinema/concert hall of "Chernomorski" Hotel. It was attended by students from medical universities around the country, as well as international students. Young people presented their skills and talents on the stage and enjoyed their time together.

Nearly 40 were the performances which over 200 participants used to represent their universities - MU-Varna, MU-Sofia, MU-Plovdiv, MU-Pleven, Medical Faculty of Thracian University - Stara Zagora and University of Patras, Greece. The varied styles of performances satisfied even the most capricious tastes and were greeted with great interest by the audience. The program included the Amazon of Asia Dance Fest - Nepal, mystical gospel music, rock classics, and the



most contemporary pop music. The sensual dances from the heart of Latin America were also extremely

fascinating.

The medics proved to be talented not only in their profession, but their sometimes hidden and unsuspected talents. MU-Pleven was presented by Gena Lutskanova, who performed "Cabaret" by Lisa Minelli, a folk group with "Gergyovsko Joy" dance and the teams of foreign students from India and Nepal who performed Indian and Nepalese dances, as well as Milen Kolev's interpretation of Adele's hit song "Rolling in the deep".

The hosts of the festival at the Medical University in Varna had prepared a rich social program for the students, which made their experience even more exciting and interesting. Among the organizers' initiatives were a visit to the Astronomical Center with a planetarium, where the guests attended a lecture given by a cosmonaut. Other interesting activities included a boat trip, a visit to the Slavic Center and the Crystal Museum, as well as a variety of sports activities.



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