



# MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

First published on June 24, 1928

December 27, 2011  
Special issue

THE NEWSPAPER OF KHARKIV NATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

*The newspaper was awarded with a silver medal of the "Higher School" Ukrainian Government Contest*

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF KNMU

### ON THE WAY OF COOPERATION

On December 9 the Rector, Professor V.N. Lesovoy met the 1st Secretary of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco Mr. El Boury Karim at Kharkiv National Medical University.

During this meeting the parties discussed aspects of their cooperation related to the training of Morocco's citizens at our University and a possible broadening of bilateral contacts in the field of international relations.

In the process of his acquaintance with the University Mr. El Boury Karim visited the Community Museum of History of Kharkiv National Medical University, wrote an entry to the visitor's book and thanked for an interesting and substantial excursion into the past of our famous educational institution.



## CONFERENCE

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES: AN URGENT PROBLEM OF THE MODERN AGE

On October 20-21, 2011 Kharkiv National Medical University held the research and practice conference with international participation "Urgent Problems in the Clinical Picture and Prevention of HIV-Infection and Diseases with the Parenteral Route of Transmission".

Since 2007 this has been the third scientific forum dealing with discussion of the most urgent problems of clinical infectology. Thus, some tradition, which was formed and is continuously fed with significant scientific achievements of researchers and the accumulated practical experience of medical practitioners in the field of infectious diseases, has been outlined.

Two peculiarities of the above conference made it a long-awaited event in the scientific and medical communities of Ukraine and abroad. At first, such urgent issues of the present times as HIV-infection/AIDS and parenteral viral hepatitis, which are characterized by their global spreading and clinical variety, aroused interest of doctors of many specialties (internists, infectionists, dermatovenereologists, obstetricians-gynecologists, oncologists, neuropathologists, pediatricians, neonatologists, etc). This fact was demonstrated by a wide format of the participants (listeners and reporters) and presentations, which dealt with modern methods of diagnosis, treatment, prevention, peculiar clinical manifestations, first of all of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis B and C, AIDS-indicating diseases and states (tuberculosis, helminthiasis, herpes, toxoplasmosis), aspects of epidemiological surveillance over infections with the parenteral route of transmission, the pharmaco-economic component in their treatment, etc.

Another very important component of the conference and, as we hope, its life-giving establishment consisted in holding of the English section, which in future is to attract still more attention to the forum and broaden the geography of its participants. The section was held in the special hall of medical literature in the English language, which opened in February. The English section attracted attention of specialists from Ukraine, students of the University and medical practitioners.

For two days of the conference more than 460 scientists, young researchers and doctors took part in its work, 38 oral and 10 posters presentations were made.

The success of the conference was facilitated by a cozy work climate, which dominated during it, well-coordinated work and responsibility of workers of all services and departments of the University.

**D.V. Katsapov**, Dean of the 6th Faculty for International Students  
**G.I. Gradil**, Associate Professor of the Department of Infectious Diseases  
**V.G. Tkachenko**, lecturer of the Department of Infectious Diseases

## CONFERENCE

### ENGLISH MEDIUM TRAINING: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

XLV academic conference "The Modern State, Problems and Prospects of English Medium Training at KhNMU" took place on November 24. This year it coincided with two dates, significant for the University: 60 years of training of foreign students and 15 years from the beginning of training at Kharkiv National Medical University in the English language.



Participants in the conference featured the problems of social and psychological adaptation of our first-year students from different countries to the studies at the University. This year the number of foreign students with the English form of training has gone over 1,000. In this connection, combination of traditional and modern forms of organization in the training of medical students, as well as improvement of the organizational and methodological provision for training in the English language at our clinical departments assume paramount importance. The discussion also involved problems of staff provision for the English medium form of training at KhNMU. More than 350 lecturers, who master the English language, have been trained for the fundamental and clinical departments within the past years. Problems and prospects in the further development of the human resources of the University were described. The experience of training specialists in occupational medicine at the Medical Faculty of Otto von Guericke University of Magdeburg (Germany) was analysed in a separate report. More than 200 teachers of KhNMU took part in the work of the conference.

**V.D. Markovskiy**, Vice-Rector for Research and Education  
**D.V. Katsapov**, Dean of the 6th Faculty for International Students

**ON THE 60th YEAR OF THE TRAINING OF FOREIGN CITIZENS AT KhNMU****HIPPOCRATES' CHOICE – CHILDREN OF DIFFERENT NATIONS**

In 1951 the country, and our native Kharkiv together with it, raised from ruins after the war. It was even before the main building was opened that foreign students, citizens of Socialist countries, began arriving here for training. Their number was not great, but nevertheless this fact demonstrated that our medical school had been known in the world for a long period of time.

At that time there were no preparatory departments in Kharkiv which would give knowledge of the Russian language, therefore the foreigners underwent their linguistic training in their native countries or in Moscow. The first preparatory department in Kharkiv was opened in 1961.

Our Dean's Office for International Students was founded in 1964. Associate Professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Borys Yevgenyovych Grechanin became its first Dean, he held this position for 14 years and later worked for 17 years as the Vice-Rector for International Relations. The Head of the Department of Russian Language Tamara Vasyilivna Nikonova was the Deputy Dean from the moment of the Dean's Office foundation to 1984.

The Dean's Office for International Students carried out much versatile work. The Soviet Union took upon itself expenses for training the above students, assigned means to provide clothes for students, who came from warm countries, for their scholarship, excursion trips to cities and towns of the USSR, as well as for vouchers in order to improve health of those students who needed medical aid.

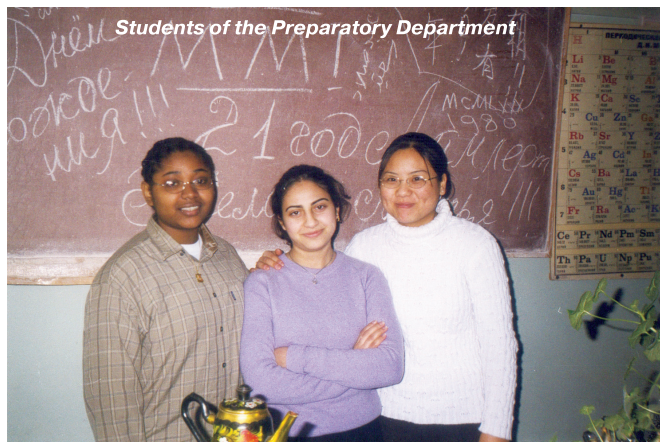
Kharkiv Medical Institute organized expatriates' communities, which were taken care of by staffs of the Institute departments. The students were invited to participate in celebration of holidays and important anniversaries of those countries, where they came from. Much help in educational work was given by the Department of Russian Language: friendship parties



**V.N. Lesovoy, V.D. Markovskiy and I.V. Letik with graduates of the University**



**Graduates of the University, 2010**



**Students of the Preparatory Department**



**Student Victor Balagadde acting as Hippocrates**

and theme events were constantly held at our international hostels.

The students' researches were always paid attention to by the Dean and department staffs. Many students worked as residents and postgraduates, delivered reports at international, Ukrainian and All-Union conferences. Some of our graduates even became ministers in their countries, outstanding scientists and specialists.

Admission of students for studying in the English medium began in 1996. At first, 23 people came, but in 2011 the number of such students has been as many as 513. One third of our lecturers, parallel to teaching, prepares scientific works, writes manuals, monographs and examination materials in the English language. In 2010 the Preparatory Department for Foreign Citizens resumed its work; the Dean's Office for English Medium Students was founded. Our library has a specialized reading hall, which is in great demand.

For 60 years our University has been carrying out much work in training medical personnel for different countries. Our medical school is known and appreciated all over the world, and we are sure that our present students will become worthy specialists and will carry through all their lives the feeling of gratitude to Kharkiv National Medical University, which made it possible for them to carry the warmth of their hearts and the knowledge, received here, to their peoples.

**V.D. Markovskiy, Vice-Rector for Research and Education**

**NOTE:**

The University has trained 4,237 doctors from 86 countries of the world. Of them, there are 3 Doctors and 70 Candidates of Medical Science, approximately 200 residents. At present, almost 2,500 foreign students, probationers, residents, and postgraduates from 72 countries study at the University.

## PRACTICAL TRAINING

## “DOCENDO DISCIMUS” – “BY TEACHING, WE ARE LEARNING”



*The practice for English-medium students of the Stomatological Faculty was organized for the first time by the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Pediatric Maxillofacial Surgery, and Implantology of KhNMU in specialty “Prevention of dental diseases” and based at Pediatric Dental Clinic Hospital No. 1.*

All students were provided with work places, such as a dental unit, and necessary

dental instruments. Young patients were willing to communicate with future doctors. Interestingly, when kids came again, they enjoyed meeting with the students, who addressed to the kids by their first names, and never mistaking!

We asked one of the students to tell us about her impressions of the practice, and she willingly shared with us.

“This year I had my summer pediatric dentistry practice from July 15 to 31.

During these 2 weeks of practical work I was at a pediatric clinic hospital in Geroiv Truda Street.

Olga Vladimirovna was present at the clinic hospital with me every day as a supervisor and a pediatric dentist, who treated patients. I observed the way she saw the patients who were children aging from almost 3 to 15. She explained to me how to start to talk with kids, make them feel comfortable and then start to ask them or their parents about their complaints.

Then how to start to examine the patient; it should be gently so the patient will not be afraid.

After checking the patient’s condition we are to check the state of his teeth and, if there is some problem, it should be shared with the parents.

She described the materials used for children’s teeth and the right way to apply them. As a rule, no anesthesia is used for therapeutic treatment of children, so the doctor has to work very gently.

During a day I cleaned a child’s teeth which had yellowish spots.

Once we attended a kindergarten, we read stories to children about the right way and the right time for brushing teeth, then we accompanied them to the bathroom and helped them to brush correctly, we took photos and gave some information about different food and vegetables, which are necessary for healthy teeth. Finally, some cards were given to them with 30 days timing on them so when they brush their teeth they will get stars as encouragement.

Every day I wrote a report of what I had done during that day.



I learned how to examine an ill child, how to treat caries at different stages and how to treat pulpitis or periodontitis. I also learned how to interpret a child’s x-ray while still milk teeth are present and when the child has a mixed dentition.

On the last day I got my report signed by my teacher, the dentist and the head of the clinic hospital.

I appreciate my dear teacher Olga Vladimirovna as a dentist and as my supervisor, as well as everyone who helped me during my practice.” (Masoomeh Amini).

So, in our practical work with English-medium students we follow the motto, which makes it possible for the teacher to be always the best one: “Docendo discimus.”

**R.S. Nazaryan, O.V. Garmash,  
O.V. Iskorostenskaya, V.V. Kuzina, L.S. Krivenko**

## CONGRESS

## INDISPENSABLE EXPERIENCE

*The XI World Congress on Endometriosis was held on September 4-7 in Montpellier, France, with participation of 1273 delegates from 73 different countries.*

Such a considerable interest to the above problem is connected with a wide spreading of this disease, which in recent years has become not only a medical condition but also obtained a social character, led to the reproductive function disorders, worsening of patients’ life quality, disability and increasing of their inferiority complex.

New etiopathogenetic aspects of endometrioid disease treatment were presented at the Congress, classifications and new ways for treating deep infiltrating endometriosis were suggested, unique opportunities for conservative therapy of this pathology were observed.

The Ukrainian delegation presented two abstracts, prepared at Kharkiv National Medical University: “Peculiarities of Immune Profile of Patients with External Genital Endometriosis” (M.V. Samoylova, O.P. Tanko, V.A. Benyuk) and “Clinical Features of Endometriosis Course at the Present Stage in Ukraine” (O.P. Tanko, M.V. Samoylova, G.V. Maltsev, S.I. Gayvoronska, L.A. Vigovska).

We did not only present our data, obtained at KhNMU, but also gained a great experience in diagnosing, preventing and treating endometriosis, that will help us to improve our patients’ treatment.

**O.P. Tanko,**

*Professor of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology No.2*



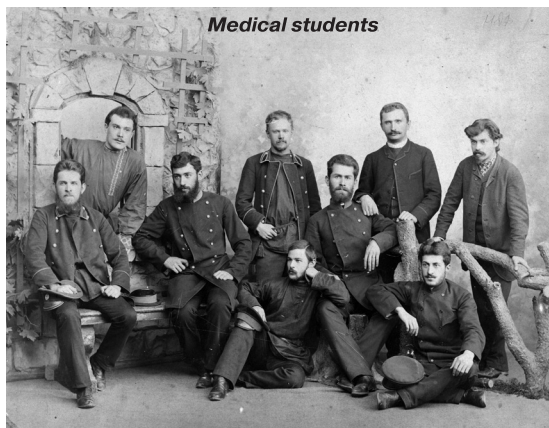
**At the picture:** Professor O. Tanko, Hans Evers – Professor, President of World Endometriosis Society, Paolo Vercellini – Professor and Chief, Benign Gynecological Surgery Service of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Milan, T. Eremenko – Professor of Odessa National Medical University.

**FROM THE STUDENTS' HISTORY****STUDENTS' FRATERNITY GOES ON LIVING**

*On the eve of the coming Student's Day, a wonderful holiday in honor of all those people who persistently grind away at their books, we would like to think a little over students' life some 100-150 years ago. Who were students of the Medical Faculty of Kharkiv Imperial University, what did they look like, how did they spend their workdays and holidays? Memoirs, left by graduates, can give us answers to these questions.*

The students' order of day was strictly organized, as most of them lived at hostels, where almost army discipline was observed: reveille by ring at 7 a.m., a Spartan breakfast consisting of a glass of tea and a roll, studies, dinner, studies again, a light supper consisting of tea and rolls again, and lights-out at 10 p.m. Late-coming students were let into the "building" by a non-commissioned officer on duty, "... and next day they had to explain themselves to a senior subinspector, and the extent of their guilt depended upon the extent of their being late. However, this happened in rare cases: if a student had a five-kopec coin to put it into the non-commissioned officer's hand, everything was all right."

Students spent a greater part of their time at the University, grasping the wisdom of medicine, because lectures at that time were often the only source of information on subjects. As I.V. Liubarsky wrote: "Very difficult for medical students of my time was the fact that no appropriate printed manuals or even lithographic notes were available in any subject, except anatomy. We had to make notes, pursuing the speech of our professors who, without paying any attention to our effort, used to deliver by a plain text. It was difficult and, sometimes, thankless work; students had to resort to different abbreviations and later, working at their lecture notes at home, were not able to read what they wrote themselves. It goes without saying that proper names and technical terms were sometimes absolutely distorted. If a profes-



**Medical students**

sor used to deliver the same material for many years, without any additions and changes, ready notes passed from students of previous years to new ones by means of buying and selling."

During short periods of their leisure time, which toilers of medicine were sometimes happy to have, the students used to gather together at some of their friend's apartment "... to spend time with peaceful entertainments. They enjoyed drinking unsweetened tea while holding a piece of sugar in their mouth, and were often treated to "visant", the wine which was very popular among students of that time. At such parties they picked to pieces their professors, discussed news of the town and sang "Gaudeamus". And when the interlocutors started to speak

the language of the gods (Latin), it was a reliable sign that visant had produced its excitatory effect."

Interesting information is given by V.P. Buzeskul about the appearance of medical students at that time: "Medical and natural students were very typical. Such a student had long hair, a beard, spectacles, a very broad-rimmed hat, long jackboots, a plaid on his arms and a thick stick in his hand."

More than a century has passed since those times, but front-door security clerks at hostels are so strict like before, "Gaudeamus" is still heard like before, and lecture notes pass from hands to hands like before; it means that the students' fraternity goes on living. Our congratulations on the Student's Day!

*Elena Semenenko, curator of funds of the Museum of History*

**ON THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S DAY****HOW I FEEL TO BE A STUDENT  
OF KHARKIV NATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**

It is an honor to be accepted and get a chance to gain education among hundreds and thousands of students who have applied. As Kharkiv Medical University is rich in its resources for educational purposes like having the richest anatomical museum, etc., it makes studying here interesting and also increases my knowledge up to now.

Since this is just my first year I look forward to more years of knowledge to be obtained and to walk out the doors as a graduate and doctor for my family and country to be proud of.

*Thohira Moosa, Maldives*



Being a student of Kharkiv National Medical University has been an eye-opening experience. I appreciate how students are grouped to make smaller classes to enhance communication between teachers and students. This is very unique because it was not the same situation in my country. However, during the lectures, I find it difficult to hear the teacher and I think it will be good to have microphones and speakers installed in all the lecture halls.

*Obinyan Ofure Abigail, Nigeria*

Being here is setting me on the greatest path of life; it is amazing how much you can learn in such a short time. My view on life has changed for the better and I feel no doubt that I am getting the best education the world has to offer. It is not a coincidence that I am here; it is my destiny to be here. I am very grateful for getting this opportunity and I am going to use it to the maximum potential.

*Onyla Onyemaechi, Nigeria*



**ON THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S DAY**

# STUDENT'S DAY

*Uba Augustina Chidera (Nigeria):* The 17th of November is a day specially made for students. A student is a person, who leaves his/her home, parents and siblings and comes to school to receive his/her formal education after receiving informal one, in ambition to become a nurse, doctor, engineer, etc., in future.

Student's day should be unique in the activities. First, the students should come to school as early as possible and have a talk with the rector, who should give them the encouragement (because the students need all-round encouragement). The school should give dinner for the students and present small gifts for them, perhaps textbooks and writing materials. Students should wear the uniform and act as one. They should have fewer hours of classes.

The students should also take pictures with teachers, the Dean, and of course with the rector, because it is a day to be remembered. They could buy and cut cakes and, if possible, the university should be decorated. Students could give gifts to their Dean and teachers to show appreciation for having someone to teach and direct them. At the end of the day the students should go happy and glad that they have achieved something good and by the way that the students may improve, because they will have in mind that the school they are in cares about their welfare.

*Oreduwa Lekun-Opesusi (Nigeria):* Student's day should be a day of fun and happiness. A day, when students feel themselves loved and appreciated. A school can never be completed without its students. The students make up the major part of the school. On this day the students should be shown how too much their presence is needed and appreciated.

This day should be celebrated with a variety of colors. Colors bring out the beauty in a lot of things. It should be celebrated with the beauty of different cultures and various traditional wears and music in the air. With this type of atmosphere everyone will be so happy with smiles on their faces.

There should also be various events to boost the mood of the day. Display of talent will make it possible for us to see various hidden gifts the students have. Also there should be prize-winning events.

Students love to party and have fun so that day should include a lot of dancing, singing and enjoyment. It should be a day to be remembered and a day that will be talked about for a very long period of time.

*Osuolale Damilola (Nigeria):* On November 17, Student's day should be effectively celebrated with students having fewer hours of school work, which will not only help their mental development process, but also give time to catch fun with their peers.

Schools can also organize certain cul-



tural and educational concerts, which will give their students a platform to exhibit their traditional costumes and practices. This will also serve as an avenue for the students to meet and make friends and get to be familiar with other cultures.

Excursions to places of interest can also be organized for discovery of historic events. Foreign students should be encouraged to exhibit their various home-grown talents and those newly learnt.

*Al-Aqeedi Hadeer Rafid (Iraq):* Student's day should be very special for the student: no teachers or anything else like studying... So, all students should enjoy this day, which should be the most memorable one in all students' life. A concert with a celebrity singer will make this day interesting. All ladies in dresses and gentlemen in suits... Indian dance performance would make the day bright and fun... Teachers should not tell us what to do.

*Osunsanya Ayomide (Nigeria):* The Student's day is a unique day set aside to students. On this day, students show all sorts of things such as talents, knowledge and so on. It is a day when students do most activities in the school.

On this day, students of each year (1st, 2nd, 3rd ...6th) may give separate presentations. Also, it should be a day to reward outstanding performances of excellent students, as well as outstanding teachers should be rewarded.

The Student's day should be a day of cultural display. The students from different countries and cultures should come up with fascinating demonstration of their cultures. The school management should give students advice how to pass their course.

*Carungi Prilla (Uganda):* Students from different countries should display their country flags to show their identities. To make

it more colorful, there could be nice painting, balloons, and t-shirts of different colors printed out to be worn. There should be a talent show, students presenting their talents in dancing, singing, etc. It should be a day when students have a break from school work schedule.

*Benevolent Tumagole (South Africa):* It is necessary to celebrate the Student's day at KhNMU, because students come from all over the world and it will be very exciting for them to feel they are a part of this university and country.

In my opinion, we should celebrate in such a way: a candle-light dinner, the students wear their evening clothes and participate in entertainment, music, dance, and maybe with invitation of a guest speaker or a former student, who graduated from this university, now works as a doctor and has come to motivate the students.

Various activities can be planned for the evening, and students will do all the planning of this entertainment (students of all groups and courses).



## GOOD FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE GUARANTEES SUCCESSFUL STUDIES



The first former learners of the Preparatory Department (PD) for foreign citizens have finished their course, and we have met new ones for the academic year 2011-2012. More than 85% of our former students continue their training at KhNMU having received fundamental knowledge in the basic subjects (the Russian language, biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics) and feeling much more self-confident at this University than new-coming students. During the whole academic year the PD learners live a real students' life. They attend classes, take tests and examinations, have a free access to the Internet and library, use the reading hall and, like other students, of course, can live at the University's hostels. The PD also helps to organize their leisure time.

On September 12, 2011 we began our new academic year. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt study now at the PD. The admission process will last till December 31, 2011. Each separate group receives its own syllabus, terms for taking tests and examinations, because the students desiring to study at the PD arrive to Ukraine at different time.

It is very important to have a high level of fundamental knowledge for a subsequent success in the students' life, and any foreign learner can get such knowledge during one academic year at our Preparatory Department for foreign citizens.

*V.G. Selegen*

### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

## THE BEST WAY TO STUDY CULTURE

In November our teacher of History of Ukrainian Culture Mrs. Nataliya Martynenko showed us a very specific art – opera. We went to Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre named after Mykola Lysenko. It was a good chance to understand many things and to get a lot of new knowledge. First of all, we learned about classical music, and its founders in Ukraine (Mykola Lysenko and Semen Hulak-Artemovsky). Second, we

listened to amazing music, which differs a lot from modern one. The opera "Natalka-Poltavka" was full of traditional Ukrainian songs and motives. It was incredible! For the first time ever we visited theatre and the place for orchestra and big variety of musical instruments was absolutely great! In "Zaporozhets za Dunaem" we noticed many things that really exist in our culture. The details of Sultan's clothes, his and his servants' behavior were close to the reali-

### INFORMATION FOR YOU!

The campaign "Present your Library with a book" will start at the University after the New Year holiday.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the event.

*Scientific Library*

ty... The voices of the singers were charming! Just after this we understood the gap between popular music or hip-hop and professional classical singing.

We hope that we will have the chance to see other masterpieces of classical opera and ballet. We have plans to listen to opera "The Barber of Seville" and to see the ballet "The Nutcracker".

*Second-year dental students*





EURO 2012

## I AM A VOLUNTEER!

My name is Bilal Al-Sharash. I am from Jordan. I came to Ukraine in October 2006. I want to be a heart surgeon. I have a chance to become a volunteer for Euro 2012. Many people ask, "Why do you want to be a volunteer?" This is because I want to gain experience of participating in such events, especially to have new experience in cases of emergency. Besides, to show what I can do in such situations, and of course to do good for guests and citizens of Ukraine.



I have decided to volunteer for Euro 2012 in order to get some high skills, which Ukrainian specialists have, and also to show my abilities in this area. By this, I would like to manifest my love and my respect for the Ukrainians!

The Ukrainians are my people, because I have been living here for more than five years.

*Bilal Al-Sharash, a student of KhNMU 5th y., gr. 38*



ISIC

## Dear students and young scientists!



You are cordially invited to participate in the 5th International Scientific Interdisciplinary Conference (ISIC) that will take place **from April 25 till April 27, 2012** at Kharkiv National Medical University, Kharkiv, Ukraine.

This ISIC is going to be for the 5th time and it will be one of the largest and most significant events in the medical scientific life of the youth. More than 400 students will take part in the conference, among them there will be over 150 presenting participants from more than 25 countries of the world. Young researchers from different countries will be able to exchange their work experience and share new ideas and views owing to an attractive programme of oral presentations, poster sessions, workshops and key-note lectures.

Professor Natan Bornstein (Israel) and Professor Vida Demarin (Croatia) are going to be guests of the 5th ISIC.

### Forms of participation in the Conference:

- abstract publication;
- oral presentation;
- poster presentation;
- participation without any publication.

During the Conference, the following sessions will work:

- Obstetrics and gynecology;
- Biomedical sciences;
- Internal medicine;
- Hygiene and social medicine;
- Pediatrics and neonatology;
- Surgery;
- Traumatology and orthopedics;
- Infectious diseases;
- Neurosciences;
- Urology and nephrology;
- Medical genetics;
- Dentistry.

**The official language of the conference** is English.

**Abstract deadline** is **March 1, 2012.**

In order to get more information or submit your abstract, you are kindly requested to visit our website **www.isic.kharkov.ua** or contact us by **e-mail: nataly\_kuferina@rambler.ru.**

We hope you will enjoy the 5th ISIC!

*Sincerely yours,  
the Organizing Committee*

## JOKES

☺ ☹ ☹

A Professor of Medicine, a man well known for his earnest and oft-proclaimed temperance views, was (yet again) lecturing the medical students on the damage that alcohol can do. To demonstrate its effect on the nervous system, he took a worm and dropped it into a glass of gin & tonic. The worm wriggled around for a few minutes before finally giving a few convulsive twitches and dying.

"And can we deduce anything from that?", asked the Professor with the triumphant air implying that only obvious conclusion could be drawn.

"Yes," came a voice from the back, "if you've got worms, drink alcohol."

☺ ☹ ☹

The man looked a little worried when the doctor came in to administer his annual physical, so the first thing the doctor did was to ask whether anything was troubling him.

"Well, to tell the truth, Doc, yes," answered the patient.

"You see, I seem to be getting forgetful. I'm never sure I can remember where I put the car, or whether I answered a letter, or where I'm going, or what it is I'm going to do once I get there – if I get there. So, I really need your help. What the hell can I do?"

The doctor mused for a moment, then answered in his kindest tone, "Pay me in advance."

☺ ☹ ☹

The middle-aged spinster, well known for all her charity work and support for good causes (because she was a somewhat tedious self-publicist), was complaining to the Doctor of a persistent headache.

"What's it like?" asked the Doctor.

"Like a tight band around my head," replied the spinster.

Mindful that this type of headache is most often due to an unhealthy or stressed lifestyle, the Doctor asked if she smoked a lot.

"Certainly not, Doctor. Never have smoked, never will," was the emphatic reply.

"Do you drink a lot of alcohol?"

"Doctor! I am strictly teetotal."

"How often do you have sex?"

"That is an impertinent question, I am as chaste as the driven snow."

"Perhaps you're spending too much time going to church?"

"Impossible, Doctor. As I keep telling the Mothers Union, I go twice every Sunday and every Festival Day because it is our clear duty to do so."

"Are you working too hard at your charity activities?"

"Well," simpered the spinster, "I always believe that you can never do too much for your fellow man, even to the detriment of your own health."

"Just as I thought," said the Doctor, "It is clear that the headaches are due to your halo being too tight."

**TRADITIONS****EID MUBARAK!**

Eid al-Adha, or “Festival of Sacrifice”, or “Greater Eid”, is an important religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide to commemorate the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God, before God intervened to provide him with a sheep – to

sacrifice instead.

Ibrahim, known as Abraham in the Christian and Jewish traditions, was commanded by God to sacrifice his adult son. He obeyed and took Ishmael (Ismail or Ismael) to Mount Moriah. Just as he was to sacrifice his son, an angel stopped him and gave him a ram to sacrifice in place of his son. Some people dispute that the son of sacrifice was Isaac. Regardless, these events are remembered and celebrated at Eid al-Adha.

Eid al-Adha is a public holiday in such places as Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. It is not a nationwide public holiday in such countries as Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Ukraine. However, some Islamic organizations may be closed or offer a reduced level of service and there may be some local congestion around mosques in those countries, where Eid al-Adha is not a public holiday.

On Eid al-Adha, many Muslims make a special effort to pray and listen to a sermon at a mosque. They also wear new clothes, visit family members and friends and may symbolically sacrifice an animal in an act known as qurbani. This repre-

sents the animal that Ibrahim sacrificed instead of his son.

In some traditionally Muslim countries, families or groups of families may purchase an animal known as udhiya, usually a goat or sheep, to sacrifice, but this is not common or legal in many parts of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, the United States or many other countries. In these countries, groups of people may purchase a whole carcass from a butcher or slaughterhouse and divide it amongst themselves or just buy generous portions of meat for a communal meal on Eid-al-Adha. People also give money to enable poorer members of their local community and around the world to eat a meat-based meal.

In the period around Eid al-Adha, many Muslims travel to Mecca and the surrounding area in Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj pilgrimage. Package holidays are organized from many countries. Muslims may plan and save for many years to enable them to take part in this event, which is one of the five pillars of Islam.

**Halo Azad Khidwr Bagi**  
3rd Year, General Medicine  
Kharkiv National Medical University

**COMPETITION****I PRIDE MYSELF ON STUDYING IN UKRAINE**

The international students of Kharkiv National Medical University, who are interested in the history and traditions of Ukraine, took part in the creative competition “I pride myself on studying in Ukraine”. The majority of our first-year students participated in this competition; they drew pictorial works, made pictures and photos. To choose the best works was a very difficult task for the jury. Here are the winners’ names: Amir Nabiyeu, Tajikistan (5th Faculty), Olga Zakharchenko, Russia (5th Faculty).



**The winner of the competition: Amir Nabiyeu**



**Winners: M. Lenskaya, Ya. Miroshnichenko**

We hope that this event will become one more good tradition of our glorious University, so that each of us could say with dignity: “Ukraine is me and you. Ours are dawns and evening rays of the sun, wisdom and philosophy of these people, their native language, love, hope.” And every foreign citizen will be able to say: “I pride myself on studying in Ukraine”.

**O.V. Samolysova,**  
lecturer of the Ukrainian language,  
Department of Educational  
Sciences

**«Medical University»**

Certificate of Registration KhC №193 dated June 29, 1994

**Founder** – Academic community of  
Kharkiv State Medical University.

Issued twice a year

**Editorial office: 4, Lenina avenue, Kharkiv, 61022**

**Main building, 5th floor, phone 707-73-60**

**e-mail: redakt@knuu.kharkov.ua**

**www.knuu.kharkov.ua**

Approved for print 26.12.2011. Format 60 x 90/4.

Offset paper. Font Pragmatica. Offset printing.

Conventional print sheets 3. Publisher’s sheet 4.

Circulation 500 copies. Order №12/12.

Printed at «Kontrast» Publishing and Printing Enterprise.

Lenin Avenue 40, app. 231, Kharkiv, 61166, Ukraine  
phone (057) 719-49-13, 717-76-51

Certificate of Registration №178 dated September 15, 2000

The editorial office holds no responsibility for information accuracy. Original manuscripts are not revised or returned.

The opinions expressed are those of the writers and are not

necessarily the official view of  
Kharkiv National Medical University.

**Editor-in-Chief V. Zakharevych**  
**In charge of the issue**  
**prof. Igor V. Zavgorodnii**