



Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
Faculty of Medicine



**Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative
Master Program**

Public Health

Implemented February 2018

Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative Master Program „Public Health”

Description

„Public Health is the Science and Art of preventing disease”¹
*„Public Health promotes and protects the health of people
and the communities where they live, learn...”²*

Master Program Title: Public Health

The innovative Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative Master Program is designed in the framework of SIU founded CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)” and partnership between Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University/TSU (Georgia), The Arctic University of Norway/UiT (Norway) and National Center for Diseases Control and Public Health/NCDC (Georgia).

Academic Degree Offered: Master of Public Health (MPH)

Head of the Master’s Program: Nino Chikhladze, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

International academic adviser: Toralf Haswold, Professor Emeritus, the Arctic University of Norway/University of Tromso, Norway

Duration of the Study: Two years (four semesters)

Number of credits: 120 ECTS are required to complete the Master program.

Language of instruction: English

The aim of the Program: Master Program aims to provide student-centered and competence-based teaching harmonized with International standards of Public Health Master Level Education, therefore intends to train and inspire new generation of public health professionals in global network atmosphere, provide broad knowledge, skills and expertise that is needed to undertake leadership roles in addressing important issues of Public Health at national and global level.

Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree diploma in Health Sciences or in a relevant field (Social Sciences or Natural Sciences in case of documented minimum 5ECTS within the areas specific to master program: *Public Health, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Health Management, Health Economics, Health Promotion*), one cycle-undergraduate medical education diploma.
- The common entrance exam for master degree (for Georgian applicants only);

¹ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/public-health-services>

² <https://www.apha.org/what-is-public-health>

- University exam in English Language on level B2 or Certificate confirming the knowledge of English Language on level B2.
- Candidates who have the right to study and have not passed the Common Master's Exam but have been finished the Bachelor's program or Undergraduate Medical Educational Program in English, are exempt from a foreign language exam, and they do not have to submit a language certificate (TSU Academic Board Meeting №164/2018; 28.06. 2018 appendix 276).

International Students: The program also admits International Students. Graduates of Foreign Universities are allowed to submit their application in full compliance with Georgian Legislation. Please, for more information refer to the web-page of Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia: <http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=1131&lang=geo>

Start of the Program

The Program admits new students one time per year for the autumn/fall quarter, the end of September. For exact dates please see the academic schedule on TSU web-site. (<https://www.tsu.ge/>).

The Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the study and after successful completion of the master program, students:

Knowledge and Understanding

-will have a profound and comprehensive knowledge of concepts and methods in public health; will be able to express in-depth understanding of public health issues and population health and its social, economic and environmental determinants.

Skill

-will be able to find the ways of problem solving in new or unfamiliar environment within multidisciplinary context and to apply epidemiological and statistical concepts, ethical principles, research methods to carry out independent research and/or health needs assessment, or health economic principles in the design of financing mechanism; will be able to formulate Judgment in public health dimension on the basis of incomplete or limited information and innovative synthesis of the information; critically evaluate the quality of scientific publications in public health; perform risk assessment and health economic assessment of a given procedure, intervention, strategy or policy; write a public health policy proposal; will be able to present conclusion on public health policy and practice issues and effectively communicate public health messages with academic, professional and non-specialist audience;

Responsibility and autonomy

-will be able to continue learning independently, express understanding of the importance of LLL principles in public health practice; will be able to respect ethical principles and human

rights in health care and public health policy and practice; will be able to manage and adapt complex and multidisciplinary environment using new strategic approaches.

Approach to Teaching and Learning:

Throughout Master of Public Health Program different methods will be employed:

- ✓ Interactive lectures/seminars using PP presentations, demonstration method using Video/Audio materials
- ✓ Computing practical, group work with peers
- ✓ Homework assignments, Quiz
- ✓ Presentations
- ✓ Debates/Discussions, Brainshtorming
- ✓ Observation
- ✓ Case/Problem/Role play-based learning
- ✓ The critical analysis method
- ✓ Participation in scientific research
- ✓ e-learning Platform Moodle

Student-centered and skills-based teaching and learning encourage students to be active during whole study and to take responsibility for their own learning.

Organization and Structure

Program covers the core principle of public health. Program cover academic training and research components. Totally Master Program consists of 120 ECTS (*1 ECTS -25h.) which are distributed as follow: totally 80 ECTS are allocated to 8 core courses (3 mandatory courses per semester in I and II semester; 2 mandatory courses in III semester). 10 ECTS is allocated to elective course, students should register for not than one elective course in III semester. The IV semester is dedicated to the research component-Master Thesis (30 ECTS).

I semester 30 ECTS	Evidence-Based Public Health 10 ECTS Mandatory	Epidemiology and Biostatistics I 10 ECTS Mandatory	Health Promotion 10 ECTS Mandatory
II semester 30 ECTS	Health Management, Economics and Policy 10 ECTS Mandatory	Epidemiology and Biostatistics II 10 ECTS Mandatory	Environmental Health 10 ECTS Mandatory
III semester 30 ECTS	Bioethics 10 ECTS Mandatory	Research Methods and Scientific Writing 10 ECTS Mandatory	International Health Global Health Maternal and Child Health Policy and Programs 10 ECTS Electives
IV semester 30 ECTS	Master Thesis 30 ECTS Mandatory		

Each semester comprises 15 weeks. Normally most of courses will be held once or twice per week, but in case of visiting International lecturer or student mobility some core courses (for ex. „Environmental Health”, „Bioethics”) and elective courses can be organized in more intensive way. The schedule will be agreed with students in advance.

Master thesis

Master thesis is an original research project written by students and supervised by the Faculty. At the end of III semester students choose the topic for their thesis from the lists of proposed projects. The length of the paper should be 40-60 pages (not including references). Thesis requires both an oral defense and written paper. An internal expert evaluates Master Thesis according to following criteria: well defined statement of research question, understanding of scientific literature and critical analysis, research methodology, relevance of conclusions or policy implication, etc. Master thesis defense is evaluated by internal expert’s board. For more information, please refer to course description (syllabi).

Grading System:

Student’s knowledge is evaluated using the following grading scale: “Excellent”, “Very good”, “Good”, “Satisfactory”, “Sufficient”, “Marginal fail” and “Fail”.

Scores	Designation	Classification of Evaluation
91-100	(A) “Excellent”	Positive
81-90	(B) “Very good”	Positive
71-80	(C) “Good”	Positive
61-70	(D) “Satisfactory”	Positive
51-60	(E) “Sufficient”	Positive
41-50	(FX) “Marginal Fail” (Failed with the rights to the additional exam)	Negative
0-40	(F) “Fail” (Student should retake the teaching course)	Negative

Each module has its own assessment methods. The student’s final mark is determined by the number of scores for pre-exam components (60%) and final (examination) assessment (40%). Please, refer for more information to the each course description (syllabus).

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

„Plagiarism is the reproduction or appropriation of someone else's work without proper attribution; passing off as one's own the work of someone else”³

³ <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/glossary/>

Students are responsible for understanding the concepts of academic integrity and plagiarism. In order to respect standards of academic ethics and avoiding plagiarism students will be informed about the academic integrity, scientific inquiry and plagiarism in the first year and in the frame of teaching course „Academic Writing and Scientific Research” in III semester as well.

Description of Resources

The Students are encouraged to use TSU facilities (classes, computer labs, workstations, library, e-learning teaching and learning Platform Moodle, access to electronic resources, such as a HINARI, Elsevier SCOPUS, Elsevier ScienceDirect, EBSCOHost, JSTOR, as well as the facilities and resources (classes, library, statistical Reports, access to databases, data generated from national health registries) of the Department of Public Health, National Center of Disease Control and Public Health.

Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative Master’s Program Faculty

Students will be instructed and supervised by TSU Professors, experts from NCDC and International guest lecturers, who have considerable educational background, academic and practical experience.

Nino Chikhladze- MD, PhD, TSU Associate Professor of Public Health Department

Paata Imnadze-MD, PhD, TSU Professor, Head of Public Health Department

Nata Kazakhashvili- MD, PhD, TSU Associate Professor of Public Health Department

Ketevan Dadiani- MD, PhD, TSU Associate Professor of Public Health Department

Lasha Loria- MD, MPH, PhD, TSU Associate Professor of Public Health Department

Nato Pitskhelauri- MD, MBE, PhD, TSU Postdoctoral Fellow of Public Health Department

George Lobzhanidze- MD, PhD, invited lecturer

Ekaterine Ruadze- MD, MSc, PMP, invited lecturer

Nikoloz Chkhartishvili- MD, PhD, invited lecturer

Giorgi Chakhunashvili- MD, PhD, invited lecturer

International Guest Lecturers:

Toralf Haswold- Professor Emeritus, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Age Wifstad- Professor, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Erik Eik Anda- Associate Professor, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Finn Egil- Professor, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Tormod Brenn- Associate Professor, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Charlotta Rylander- Associate Professor, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Ingvild Hersoung Nedberg- PhD student, the Arctic University of Norway, Norway

Course Descriptions (Syllabi)

Please, refer for detailed information to the annex №1

Educational Quality Assurance and Enhancement

TSU regularly evaluates the teachers' performance and educational environment's relevance. At the end of semester, survey is conducted for each teaching course and students fill the anonymous questionnaires. Student's feedback is important indicator of the effectiveness of teaching and on the areas in the teaching methods and course content that could be enhanced.

Career opportunity: Master of Public Health degree qualifies for leading positions in Health Care and Public Health facilities, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations concerned with public Health issues, as well in International Organization.

Learning Continuation Opportunity

The Master Program graduates will be able to continue studies and to apply for admission to Doctoral Programs in Higher Educational Institutions in Georgia or abroad.

Students Services

TSU Office of Students Services provides guidance and counseling on academic, social, health and disability issues and careers.

Office of International Students Services provides guidance and counseling for international students. Please, for more information about University in English language refer to the following links: <https://www.tsu.ge/en/>

https://www.tsu.ge/en/prospective_students/

Additional Information: The duration of SIU funded CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)” is four years (01.03.2016-31.12.2019). The overall goal of the project is to increase public health competence in Georgia by developing a new, international, high-quality Master Program in Public Health (MPH). The project further aims to educate students on master level to utilize the large amount of data generated from newly developed national health registries in Georgia. Furthermore, in order to enhance knowledge transfer between Norway and Georgia in terms of register-based epidemiology and public health, **short and long term students mobility at Arctic University of Norway (Norway) for individual courses, joint courses, semester exchange and supervision** it is intended .

TSU is a part of the **Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation programme** and other students' exchange and mobility schemes.

Transcript

Diploma supplement offer by TSU was approved according to the format developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. Diploma supplement Include course names, weights in ECTS, grades and grade-point average (GPA).

Program Plan

Course title	Course status (Mandatory/ elective)	Lecturer/ Lecturers	Total number of ECTS and contact hours/ Independent Work hours	Distribution of Credits					
				Semesters					
				I	II	III	IV	Total	
Evidence-Based Public Health	Mandatory	N. Kazakhashvili L.Loria	10 ECTS 45/205	10				10	
Epidemiology and Biostatistics I	Mandatory	P.Imnadze E.Ruadze G.Chakhunashvili	10 60/190	10				10	
Health Promotion	Mandatory	N.Pitskhelauri	10 45/205	10				10	
Health Management, Economics and Policy	Mandatory	N. Kazakhashvili G.Lobzhanidze	10 45/205		10			10	
Epidemiology and Biostatistics II	Mandatory	P.Imnadze E.Ruadze G.Chakhunashvili	10 60/190		10			10	
Environmental Health	Mandatory	K.Dadiani E.Ruadze	10 45/205		10			10	
Bioethics	Mandatory	N.Chikhladze N.Pitskhelauri	10 45/205			10		10	
Research Methods and Scientific Writing	Mandatory	P.Imnadze N.Chkhartishvili	10 45/205			10		10	
International Health	Elective	N.Chikhladze G.Lobzhanidze	10 30/220			10		10	
Maternal and Child Health Policy and Programs	Elective	N. Kazakhashvili L.Loria	10 30/220						Or 10
Global Health	Elective	N.Chikhladze G.Shakarishvili T.Batavani	10 30/220						Or 10
Master thesis	Mandatory		30				30	30	
				30	30	30	30	120	

Reference Points

- Standards of World Federation of Medical Education/Standards for Master's Degrees in Medical and Health Professions Education, 2016.
- European Core Competencies for MPH Education (ECCMPHE). ASPHER, 2011.
- European Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, ASPHER, 2011.
- Tuning Guidelines of Competence Development in the Study Field of Public Health, 2012.
- National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, National Qualification Framework <http://eqe.gov.ge/eng/static/125/national-qualifications-framework>
- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Quality Assurance Department guidelines https://www.tsu.ge/ge/juridical/axad_council_resolutions/2011/472011

Program approval

Master Program Content and structure was approved by:

Department of Public Health Staff Meeting on 15.11.2016;

TSU Faculty of Medicine Council Meeting (№70; 18.11.2016);

Public Health Academic Committee Meeting on 31.11.2016;

Working Meeting at Arctic University of Norway (Norway) 12.12.2016;

TSU Academic Board Meeting (№13/2017; 10.02. 2017).

Examples of Similar Master's Degree Programs in Public Health :

Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

https://uit.no/utdanning/program?p_document_id=271255

Lund University, Sweden

<http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/lubas/i-uoh-lu-VAPHE#description>

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of public Health, USA

<http://www.jhsph.edu/academics/degree-programs/master-of-public-health/>

Academic Staff/ Invited lecturers (CVs)



Nino Chikhladze – MD, PhD, TSU Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Head of the Master Program „Public Health”, Coordinator of the CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)” in Georgia.

Nino Chikhladze is a Head of the Quality Assurance Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) since 2005.

Graduated Tbilisi State Medical Institute she was involved in clinical activities (Internal Medicine) since 1988 and in academic activity since 1992, at TSU since 1996. In 1997 she was awarded PhD degree and in 2001 she licensed as specialist in Public Health and Health Care Management.

Since 2005 she has been actively involved in reformation of Higher Medical Educational System of Georgia. She is an Expert of National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement of Georgia. She has widely contributed to the elaboration first Sector Benchmark Documents in Georgia in „Medicine” and in „Nursing”. She has been involved in WHO Network of Medical Education Experts (2011).

She is an Expert of the UNESCO Global Ethics Observatory. In 2008 she has been awarded UNESCO Certificate of Ethics Teacher.

She has been involved in academic activities as a scholar, visiting professor in the frame of different exchange programs at Universities Paris and Rennes (France), Tartu (Estonia), Granada (Spain).

She contributes to the management of International projects (financed by European Union, Norwegian Center for International Collaboration in Education) in the sphere of Public Health and Medical Education.

She is the author of scientific works and manuals. She is a member of Scientific Editorial Board of National and International Journals (Morocco, Poland).

Professor Nino Chikhladze has been awarded for her contribution to the Development TSU Medical Faculty by TSU Administration.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Nino Chikhladze.



Paata Imnadze - MD, PhD, TSU Professor, Head of the Public Health Department at the Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Head of the PhD Program „Public Health and Epidemiology”, participant of the CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)”.

Paata Imnadze is a Science Director, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Tbilisi, Georgia. 1992-2010 he was Director General of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health.

He is member of the National Council on Bioethics and President of Georgian Public Health Association. Prof. Imnadze was a member of the WHO Intergovernmental Working Group on the Revision of the IHR (2004-2005), the WHO European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (2005-2011), and in 2012 was a member of the Editorial Group “Environmental health inequalities in Europe”.

From 2003 to 2006 he was a member elect of the Joint Coordinating Board of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and from 2009 to 2014 was Vice President of the Biosafety Association of Central Asia and Caucasus. He is a Member of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee concerning Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Professor Paata Imnadze published 40 peer-reviewed articles, 2 manuals, about 100 abstracts.

Professor Paata Imnadze has been honored with the Order of Dignity.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Paata Imnadze.



Nata Kazakhashvili - MD, PhD, TSU Associate Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Head of the Master Program „Public Health and Epidemiology” (TSU), participant of the CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)”.

Nata Kazakhashvili has been working as a General Director of Chachava Clinic.

Graduated from TSMU she conducted practical medical work in 1980-1986. In 1986 she started to work in the public health sector and health organization from Tbilisi municipal health service. In 1993-2007 she worked at the Healthcare Ministry of Georgia on various senior positions, including head of mother and child issues department, head of state health program management department, deputy general director in the issues of medical insurance of united state foundation of Georgian social insurance. She has been participating in and cooperating with partner programs implemented by international organizations in Georgia since 1994. Since 1993 she has been actively involved in formation of legal framework of the Georgian healthcare system. She has been actively involved in international conferences and seminars regarding issues of public health; the most important among them are: preparation of European declaration of rights of the patients (March 1994, Amsterdam, Netherlands), training course in management (August-October 1994, Atlanta, USA), implementation of strategy of improvement of health protection of mother and child in developing countries (1997 World Health Organization European regional bureau, Copenhagen, Denmark), implementation of the first project of World Bank and Georgia about reform of the health care system (1995-1999); participation in primary health care system reform project together with WB/EU/DFID/OPM (1998-2002); In 2004-2008 Nata Kazakhashvili together with Oxford Policy group (OPM) participated in preparation of training program for managers of primary health care, as a member of the training program and a lecturer.

Professor Nata Kazakhashvili is the author of 35 scientific works, reviews and textbooks.

Professor Nata Kazakhashvili has been awarded a gold medal and special certificate by the World Health Organization for her contribution to the eradication of poliomyelitis in the European region.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Nata Kazakhashvili.



Ketevan Dadiani - MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)

Ketevan Dadiani is a Deputy Director of Scientific research institute of Sanitary, Hygiene and Medical Ecology and a Head of National Scientific Body of Food Safety Risk Assessment (Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture).

In 2004-2006 – she was an expert of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia in “General Hygiene” and Member of the National Committee on Bio Safety, In 2005 she has become a patent-owner of the invention (“New product of subtropical Persimmon”) – P 3964 / 2005 08.08. In 2006-2008 she was an Expert of Georgian National Bureau on Forensic Examination of the Ministry of Justice. In 2006-2007 she has participated in developing of nutritional norms for military servants of armed forces In 2006 she worked as a Chief specialist for the administration of emergency situation management and risk analysis of the department of food safety (Ministry of Agriculture) in 2007-2010 as a consultant at Georgian Consumer Federation, which has implemented the significant activates for protection consumer rights and interests.

Ketevan Dadiani has the experience in assessment and management of environmental risks for the health of the population. She contributes to the management of International projects strengthening bio-safety capacities -laboratory system for bio-safety assessment and surveillance of drinking water in Georgia -first step", “Manganese Ecotoxicological Impact on the Health Status of Children”, “Junk Food Trap: Eastern European Region” etc.

Professor Ketevan Dadiani published 40 scientific papers, 2 monographs and 22 legal regulations.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Ketevan Dadiani.



Lasha Loria - MD, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Dr. L. Loria finished his studies at Tbilisi State Medical University in 1995 (Diploma of Excellence) and defended his Doctoral Dissertation in Surgery in 2002.

In 2003 he was awarded by a full scholarship from The Swedish Institute and graduate master studies in public health in Karolinska Institute (Sweden).

During the years of 2005-2008 Dr. Loria was working on a numerous projects in public health and especially Health Policy, was director of The Global Fund funded project: “Strengthening the Existing National Responses for Implementation of Effective HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in Georgia 2003-2007”, and also was co-director of the largest insurance company „Aldagi BCI” in Georgia.

In 2008 he was awarded by stipend and became a Hubert H. Humphrey (Equal to Master, funded by The Department of States) fellow at Emory University (Atlanta, USA), where he improved his skills in Health Policy and get new courses of master of Business Administration. Upon finishing this Program he continues working at TSU and other public and private sectors of Georgia.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Lasha Loria.



Nato Pitskhelauri - MD, MA, PhD, Associate Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), participant of the CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)“.

In 2009 Nato Pitskhelauri graduated from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, the Faculty of Medicine with honors. In 2007-2009 she was the Head of Students and Young Scientists Society. In 2009 she started working at the Open Society Georgia Foundation in Public Health Program coordinating Salzburg Medical Seminars in Georgia. In 2011 she received a certificate of successful completion of the advance training course: "Health Law and Management" at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs. In 2011-2012 Nato Pitskhelauri trained at Utrecht Medical Center (Netherlands) in CBCR Methodology of teaching. In 2012 she successfully defended her PhD thesis. Nato Pitskhelauri has participated in a number of international conferences, congresses, educational programs, among them courses at the Harvard University, University of Michigan and University of Pennsylvania (USA). She received various diplomas and prizes. Since 2011 Nato Pitskhelauri has been the Deputy Director of Georgian Healthcare Quality Association. In 2016 Nato Pitskhelauri graduated from the Advance Master Program in Bioethics of University of Leuven (Belgium), University of Nijmegen (Netherlands) and University of Padua (Italy).

Nato Pitskhelauri leads the course of CBCR, Bioethics and Health promotion of MD and DMD Programs at TSU.

Dr. Nato Pitskhelauri is an author of several publications, among them „Case based Teaching for Ethical Decision Making“ published at University of Leeds (UK).

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Nato Pitskhelauri.



George Lobzhanidze - MD, PhD, invited lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), participant of the CPEA-2015/10057 Project „Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)“.

George Lobzhanidze is a Clinical Director at Vakhtang Bochorishvili Hospital of Sepsis and Infectious Diseases.

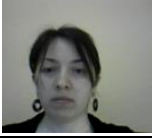
Graduate of Aieti Medical School in 1998, George Lobzhanidze has pursued PhD studies at Tbilisi State University and University of Tromso (Norway).

Professional experience includes clinical medicine (Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine), health administration, project management, teaching and medical research. At various times George Lobzhanidze has received academic and professional trainings at University of Aberdeen (UK), University of Utrecht (Netherlands), International school of leadership (Israel), Changi General Hospital (Singapore), Weill Cornell Medical College (Austria), Moscow Center of Interventional Cardio-Angiology (RF).

Currently George Lobzhanidze works as a Clinical Director at Vakhtang Bochorishvili Hospital of Sepsis and Infectious Diseases and delivers lectures at Tbilisi State University as an invited lecturer.

He is an author and co-author of 6 scientific publications (Elsevier, Biomed central, etc), 2 textbooks, among them „Case based Teaching for Ethical Decision Making“ published at University of Leeds (UK).

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of George Lobzhanidze.



Ekaterine Ruadze – MD, MSc, PMP, Invited lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Ekaterine Ruadze is Monitoring and evaluation officer, (Global Fund, HIV prevention project), National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Ekaterine Ruadze graduated Preventive Medicine Faculty at Tbilisi State Medical University in 1999. In 2008, she was awarded the academic degree of Master of Science (MSc) in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London (UK). In 2012, Ekaterine was awarded the Master in Project Management from The George Washington University (USA), School of Business and gained the Project Management Professional (PMP) from the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Dr. Ruadze leads the undergraduate courses in Hygiene and in Epidemiology at Iv. Javakhishvili University faculty of Medicine. She works for the HIV prevention project at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health. She participates in HIV related research activities and publication preparation. Dr. Ruadze, as a supervisor contributes to the Mediterranean Project for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET), which aims to train field epidemiologists in Mediterranean region.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Ekaterine Ruadze.



Nikoloz Chkhartishvili - MD, PhD, invited lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Nikoloz Chkhartishvili is a Deputy Director for Research at the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Nikoloz Chkhartishvili, MD, MS, PhD graduated from Tbilisi Medical Institute 'Vita' with MD degree in 1998, he obtained MS degree in epidemiology from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany in 2008 and PhD degree in infectious diseases from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) in 2015.

Currently he holds the position of Deputy Director for Research at the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center in Tbilisi, Georgia, which is country's leading institution in the field of HIV, viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases (except TB).

Dr. Chkhartishvili leads National HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Program, through which Georgia ensures universal access to HIV treatment since 2004. He has been involved in the development and implementation of Georgia's national strategies on HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C. Dr. Chkhartishvili is the member of scientific committee of the national hepatitis C elimination program.

Dr Chkhartishvili has been leading or has been engaged as co-investigator in number of research projects on various aspects related to HIV, HCV and health service delivery.

He has 27 peer-reviewed publications and co-authored several national and international guidelines.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Nikoloz Chkhartishvili.



Giorgi Chakhunashvili - MD, PhD, invited lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Giorgi Chakhunashvili is an Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Department, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Giorgi Chakhunashvili has graduated from Faculty of Medicine of the Tbilisi State Medical University with the Academic Degree of Medical Doctor in 2008. In 2011, he was awarded Philosophy Doctor in Medicine degree from the Dissertation Board of Institute of Critical Care Medicine. In 2011-2012, he has studied at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida (USA), and has received graduate certificates in Emerging and Infectious Disease Research, and Public Health.

Since 2016, Giorgi Chakhunashvili has been teaching Applied Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the School of Economics and Healthcare of the Caucasus University.

Giorgi Chakhunashvili is the author, co-author of numerous scientific articles, guidelines, and editor of journals.

Please refer Annex 2 for detailed CV of Giorgi Chakhunashvili.