





# THOUSANDS OF REASONS TO BE PROUD OF

YEARS OF ACADEMIC TRADITION

5 FACULTIES

6.000 STUDENTS

380
PHD STUDENTS

2.000

**EMPLOYEES** 

200

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SCIENCE CLUBS

500

SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS A YEAR

4

ACCREDITED LABORATORIES

2

CLINICAL HOSPITALS

# RECTOR'SAUTHORITIES



Prof. Marek Ziętek, DDS, PhD



Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs Prof. Piotr Ponikowski, MD, PhD



Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs Prof. Piotr Dzięgiel, MD, PhD



Vice-Rector for University Development Prof. Jacek Szepietowski, MD, PhD



Vice-Rector for Clinical Affairs Prof. Romuald Zdrojowy, MD, PhD



#### Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

A few decades of tradition obliges. The Wroclaw Medical University rose from the ashes of a city brought down by the tragedy of World War II. But the foundation of our university did not consist of stone, but of people – outstanding scientists, mostly from Lviv, but also of German and Jewish descent. Here science and medicine was created by brilliant professors: Alzheimer, Bross, Mikulicz-Radecki, Baranowski and Hirszfeld, to name a few. They were the people who set directions for our development and it is their legacy, that we acquired. The post-war history of our Alma Mater began in 1946. At first, we were merely a medical faculty on the University of Wroclaw combined with the local Technical University. Four years later the faculty was transformed into the Medical Academy, which in 2012 was officially named the Wroclaw Medical University.

Remembering our tradition, today we are creating the future of our university and Polish medicine. The popularity of our fields of study, research projects carried out by students, and the accomplishments they achieve give us thousands of reasons to be proud. We would like to share all of them with You.

prof. Marek Ziętek, DDS, PhD

Rector of Wroclaw Medical University

### **SCIENCE FIRST**



PROF. PIOTR PONIKOWSKI
VICE-RECTOR FOR SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
NAMED AS ONE OF "THE MOST
INFLUENTIAL SCIENTIFIC MINDS OF THE
WORLD" BY THOMSON REUTERS

Every year we implement several hundred scientific projects at the Wroclaw Medical University. We are also conducting a few major international grants and leading consortiums. Today science has no boundaries and for this reason we want to develop scientific disciplines with scientists from all over the world.

In order to improve fund raising and tighten the cooperation between scientists working in different areas at our university, we have selected three of them which are crucial. They are not only interdisciplinary subjects, but also represent the future of medicine and derive from the social needs acknowledged worldwide.

**Healthy ageing** – this priority field results from the need to face one of the biggest global problems today, the ageing of societies. In our opinion, this problem has only one solution – we have to learn how to take better care of youths' health.

**Translational medicine** – this field combines basic and clinical studies mainly in the areas of cardiovascular diseases, oncology and neurodegeneration. There are also plans to develop the biobanking idea, a systemised and planned process of gathering well described biological material.

**Clinical epidemiology** – our goal is to create an accurate infrastructure to conduct cohort research, which will enable the beginning of studies including a cohort of Lower Silesian inhabitants and taking part in large multicenter studies.



Scientists from Wroclaw Medical University are conducting three prestigious grants financed by the European Commission, including two under the Horizon 2020 Programme, SECURE and BETA-3. Among them, nationally unique non-commercial clinical studies by a team led by Prof. Piotr Ponikowski.

Prof. Donata Kurpas, PhD, and Maria Magdalena Bujanowska-Fedak, PhD, along with experts from Spain, Italy, Holland and Portugal analyse the problem of elderly weakness within the FOCUS project.

A team of Prof. Piotr Dzięgiel, in association with Singapore, has developed a patent which gives new hope to breast cancer patients. A high level of the analysed protein in cancer cells means that patients will respond to chemotherapy. This method improves treatment planning.

Scientists under the direction of Dariusz Biały, PhD, along with the Low Temperatures Institute within the Polish Academy of Science, are working on the use of graphene in coronary stents. Their studies indicate that the stents will not only be body-friendly, but also bacteriostatic. The work on graphene has been awarded during the 2016 International Exhibition of Innovation "Concours Lepine" in Paris.

Test Screening for Biological Activity and Biological Material Collection Laboratory will contribute to the Polish rules of biobanking.



### **POLAND - THE BEATING HEART OF EUROPE**

Poland represents the diversity of the Old Continent, connecting the East with the West and tradition with modernity. Despite its tumultuous history, it became the regional leader, whose efforts were praised due to effective economic performance and successful political transition in 1989. Polish language at first glance may be challenging, but Poles themselves are not afraid of challenges in any field - culture, politics, sports and science of course. Nicolaus Copernicus changed the way we view our solar system, Maria Skłodowska-Curie remains the only woman awarded with two Nobel Prizes in two different fields of studies - physics and chemistry, and Jan Czochralski laid a sound foundation for using contemporary electronic systems thanks to the discovery of the method of single crystal growth.

### WROCLAW – WELCOME TO THE MEETING PLACE

Wroclaw is the fourth largest city in Poland with over a thousand years of tradition. Called "the Venice of the North" thanks to its 12 islands and 130 bridges over the Odra River, the Lower-Silesian capital is a meeting place for people of science, business and culture. The local universities attract thousands of students every year, offering them not only the highest level of education, but also a chance to live in a historical yet modern city full of music and art, with rampant nightlife and vast job opportunities. Wroclaw is also known for its medical traditions, dating back to the 13th century when the first city hospital was founded. Through the years many renowned doctors lived and worked here. Starting with Alois Alzheimer, a neurologist, psychiatrist and finder of the Alzheimer's Disease, a microbiologist Ludwik Hirszfeld who established the basis of the blood groups science and two Nobel prize winners, Robert Koch awarded for the creation of modern bacteriology and Paul Erlich, one of the pioneers of chemotherapy.





### **DIDACTICS**



PROF. PIOTR DZIĘGIEL, MD, PHD
VICE-RECTOR FOR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS
RENOWNED HISTOLOGIST AND LEADER
OF INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAMS.

Wroclaw Medical University is one of the best medical universities in Poland. For many years it has been very popular with the candidates for studies. Currently, We are educating nearly 6000 students in 10 fields: Medicine, Medicine and Dentistry, Pharmacy, Medical Analysis, Dietetics, Emergency Medicine, Physiotherapy, Nursing, Obstetrics and Public Health.

We also conduct interdisciplinary Chemistry and Forensic Toxicology studies in cooperation with the University of Wroclaw.

Besides studying in Polish, we also offer English studies in the Medical and Dentistry faculties. Thanks to the English Division, many foreign students study medicine in Wroclaw

Our educational offer is enriched by a wide range of postgraduate studies. Furthermore, we educate nearly 400 young scientist on our PhD studies. Many of them have been awarded with grants from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Foundation for Polish Science. After graduation many of them decide to continue their scientific careers as employees of the Wroclaw Medical University.

### **NOT ONLY STUDIES**

Studying at the Wroclaw Medical University is not limited only to taking part in lectures and gaining knowledge. We give our students the chance to develop their interests comprehensively. There are over 200 science associations and student organisations at the university and they involve a few hundred of active participants.

Students can indulge their sport passion in sections of Wroclaw Medical University's Sports Club. Our athletes succeed in a great number of international games and competitions.



A student of the Faculty of Medicine Iwo Jarosz won the bronze medal at the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu championships. His other passion is surfing.



Dariusz Boratyński, a student of the Faculty of Health Sciences, represented Poland on the 2016 Europe Championships in cross-country races.



Agata Forkasiewicz of the Faculty of Medicine took part in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games as a participant of the relay. At the 2016 Europe Championships she made it to the final.

#### The Student Council

It's the only organisation at the Wroclaw Medical University created by students from all faculties and fields that represents their official position to the University Authorities. The members of the Council underline their political neutrality, their main aim is to focus on offering help to students and continuously improving study conditions. They organise many events such as the Medykalia (the annual student carnival), as well as winter and summer camps.



ŁUKASZ GOJNY CHAIRMAN OF THE STUDENT SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY



DANIEL SOLIŃSKI CHAIRMAN OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

#### The Student Scientific Society

The organisation oversees nearly 180 science associations. It offers assistance in finding the right one and helps students to take their first steps on the scientific path, to design research and to organise conference trips. The Society also organises the International Student's Conference of Young Medical Researchers, during which scientists from all over the world may share and broaden their experience.



### THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE





PROF. MAŁGORZATA SOBIESZCZAŃSKA, PHD
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Our strengths consist of dynamic growth, openness to change and a friendly attitude towards students.

The traditions of this Faculty, which recently has celebrated its 70th anniversary, combined with the present world-class research projects inspire its continuous growth, also in the English Division studies.



### THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

Our faculty is traditionally the most demanding division of the Wroclaw Medical University – in the last recruitment 30 candidates applied for one spot. Thanks to the high quality of lectures and well-equipped surgeries, all of our students are highly competitive on the job market.



PROF. MAŁGORZATA RADWAN-OCZKO, PHD
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

### THE FACULTY OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING



We conduct PhD studies for the university. This Faculty consists mostly of active clinicians, who allow the students to gain professional and practical knowledge in their fields. We are very proud of our awards and grants received by our students and of highly rated research projects conducted by members of our staff.

PROF. JOANNA RYMASZEWSKA
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING

## THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY WITH DIVISION OF LABORATORY MEDICINE



Although the Faculty was established 70 years ago on the ruins of Wroclaw, today it is located in the newest part of the university campus. Much of our research is conducted in cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry. However, students are the chief attribute of the Faculty, working actively in student associations and engaging themselves in many health prevention initiatives in the city.

PROF. HALINA GRAJETA
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY WITH DIVISION OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

### THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

We are the biggest Faculty in the region which educates nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, paramedics, dieticians and public health managers. We support our students in job finding due to close cooperation with the public health employers, who help us create modern study programs. The members of our staff conduct important international studies and publish their work in highly rated periodicals.



PROF. JOANNA ROSIŃCZUK, PHD DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

### **WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD**



PROF. JACEK SZEPIETOWSKI, MD, PHD VICE-RECTOR FOR UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND MEMBER OF MANY INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS

The Wroclaw Medical University actively cooperates with many centres in the country and abroad. Currently, the university benefits from 18 international agreements, which link us with universities from all over the world.

We conduct joint research, organise internships and apprenticeships and give our students and employees a chance to visit our partners abroad. Every year more universities decide to work with us within the Erasmus+ programme and the number of students and employees benefiting from it is still growing.

The university publishes five scientific periodicals, including our most prestigious journal "Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine" (Impact Factor 1.127).

What's more, we collaborate with other Wroclaw universities as a member of The Board of Chancellors from the universities in Wroclaw and Opole and by creating interdisciplinary research teams. We also take part in the Academic Wroclaw programme which promotes our city as a dynamically developing academic centre.

In response to public demand, in 2016 we launched the University of the Third Age. The popularity of the programme has exceeded our expectations. The lectures are given by scientists from all university faculties and concern health issues, elderly diseases, the role of activity, public health system and e-medicine.

Furthermore, we are constantly developing our scientific and teaching basis for the sake of our students.

### **INVESTMENTS**

### **CAPE OF HOPE**

Supra-regional Centre for Pediatric Oncology "Cape of Hope" is a clinic of the 21st century. Spacious, modern, bright and colourful rooms help the youngest oncology and haematology patients in their recovery. In the first year of working the doctors at "Cape of Hope" performed the most of children bone-marrow transplants in Europe.



# THE SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL INFORMATION CENTRE

The most recent Wroclaw Medical University investment became a true center of the old campus within a year. The building founded with university financial means combines the administrative and scientific functions. The new location of the library allowed to increase the open space with an access to books and perdiodicals. There is a spacious, glazed reading room and some smaller rooms for team work and silent study. The building is full of life – there is a cafe inside, exhibitions and meetings take place in the lobby. The Student Scientific Society chose it for its headquarters. The aesthetic value of the investment was also appreciated and awarded with second place in the Public Building category of the Beautiful Wroclaw 2016 architectural competition.

## THE MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTRE

The former historical laundry and canteen building is being transformed into the latest didactic object on campus. The students will be able to develop their practical skills while using medical simulators. The renovated spaces will be divided into six rooms similar to those at a real hospital: an operating room, an intensive care room, a labour ward, the ER, an ambulance simulator and a nurses room. Students will also be able to master basic abilities and medical procedures in interdisciplinary teams, what means that future paramedics can learn practical skills in cooperation with doctors or nurses.



### **CLINICAL ACTIVITY**



PROF. ROMUALD ZDROJOWY, MD, PHD VICE-RECTOR FOR CLINICAL AFFAIRS AN EXCELLENT SPECIALIST IN UROLOGY AND UROLOGICAL ONCOLOGY

The clinical base of Wroclaw Medical University consists of two hospitals: The Individual Public Clinical Hospital no. 1 (SPSK1) and the University Clinical Hospital. Both of them have the best quality equipment at their disposal, what allows them to conduct diagnostic and treatment at the highest level.

The hospitals are in the excellent financial condition. The SPSK1 became the leader of the hospital effectivity ranking in 2016 published by one of the leading daily newspapers in Poland. The University Clinical Hospital was ranked at 10th place.

Furthermore, the university oversees the Academic Stomatology Policlinic and the Alzheimer's Centre in Ścinawa.

### WE ARE MOVING THE BOUNDARIES OF MEDICAL POSSIBILITIES

The team led by Paweł Tabakow, PhD, and Prof. Włodzimierz Jarmundowicz continues its research on the use of olfactory ensheathing cells in the regeneration of a cut spinal cord. The study gives hope to thousands of paralysed patients. Adam Domanasiewicz, PhD, started a new era in Polish transplantology. As the first doctor in the world, he managed to transplant successfully a hand to a patient who was born without it. A team of Prof. Julia Bar, Prof. Szymon Dragan and Prof. Michał Jeleń is working on breeding a cartilage which can replace the endoprosthesis with chondrocytes. If the therapy proves successful, it will be a breakthrough in treating orthopaedic diseases.

### PASSION FOR LIFE BRINGS US TOGETHER



Life itself is the core of our medical, scientific and didactic interests. We devote ourselves to it at work and during our free time, also by organising the annual Medical University Run. In October we will once again gather together the university staff, students and many residents of Wroclaw, who prioritize their health and wellbeing.

The Wroclaw Medical University is about the extraordinary people brought together by one passion: life.

MARKETING DEPARTMENT

PHOTOS: PAWEŁ GOLUSIK, TOMASZ WALÓW, ADAM ZADRZYWILSKI

PHOTOS OF WROCLAW: UMW RESOURCES

ARTWORK ON THE INTERNAL COVER: WOJCIECH BURZYŃSKI

THE COMPOSITION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN: JANUSZ WIERZBOWSKI

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WROCŁAW 2017



