



**Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University
Faculty of Medicine**



**Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative
Master Program**

Public Health

2021

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

Academic Degree Offered: Master of Public Health (MPH)

The innovative Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative Master Program is designed in the framework of DIKU(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).

Heads of the Master’s Program: Nino Chikhladze, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, TSU;

Nato Pitskhelauri, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, TSU;

International academic adviser: Toralf Hasvold, 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 5 ECTS 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 National exam for master degree (for Georgian applicants only);
- University exam in English Language on level B2 or Certificate confirming the knowledge of English Language on level B2.

Master's degree candidates who have completed a bachelor's or undergraduate medical programs in English, are exempt from the foreign language exam and are not required to submit a language certificate.

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

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

International Students. The program admits self-financing International Students.³ Admission to the program without passing the common entrance National exam is allowed by the order N. 224/n and the order N90/n of the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia, dated by 2018.

The Learning Outcomes (LO):

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

Knowledge and Understanding

LO1-demonstrate a profound and comprehensive understanding of concepts and methods in public health;

LO2-analyze, evaluate and critically reflect/reasoning of public health issues, social, economic and environmental determinants of population health in a local and global contexts.

Skills

LO3-solve public health problems in a new or unfamiliar environment within multidisciplinary and multicultural contexts using the theory, concepts, models and methods within public health;

LO4-formulate judgment on the basis of assessment and innovative synthesis of incomplete or limited information on public health issues considering local and global contexts;

LO5-communicate effectively and appropriately conclusions on public health policy and practice and public health messages to different audience (academic, professional and lay audience) across cultural boundaries and with people from diverse background;

LO6-apply ethical principles and human rights-based approach in health in public health practice and research;

LO7-plan and carry out independent research in public health.

Responsibility and autonomy

LO8-contribute development of public health knowledge and practice a local and global contexts;

LO9-take responsibility and keep abreast of new development in public health.

Teaching methods

Approach to Teaching and Learning is active, collaborative and reflective.

- ✓ Interactive lectures/seminars using PP presentations, demonstration method using Video/Audio materials, computing practical
- ✓ Group work, individual study work, supervision
- ✓ Homework assignments, Quiz
- ✓ Presentations, Debates/Discussions, Brainstorming
- ✓ Observation, Case/Problem/Role play-based learning
- ✓ The critical analysis method
- ✓ E-learning

³ Master's degree candidates with the right to study without passing the common Master's exam, who have completed a bachelor's or undergraduate medical programs in English, are exempt from the foreign language exam and are not required to submit a language certificate (TSU Academic Board Meeting №164/2018; 28.06. 2018 appendix 276).

Organization and Structure of the program

Program covers the core principle of public health. Program covers academic training and research components.

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	Qualitative Research methods Global Health Maternal and Child Health Policy and Programs Practical Placement 5 ECTS Electives
IV semester 30 ECTS	Master Thesis 30 ECTS Mandatory		

Totally Master Program consists of 120 ECTS (*1 ECTS -25h.) which are distributed as follows: 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 an elective part, students choose any two elective courses or one elective course and practical placement in III semester. The IV semester is dedicated to the research component-Master thesis (30 ECTS).

Each semester comprises 15 weeks. Normally most of the courses will be held once or twice per week, but in some cases (lectures 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. Attendance to all the lectures and seminars is mandatory.

Master thesis

Master thesis is an original research project written by students and supervised by the Faculty. At the end of II semester students choose the topic for their thesis from the lists of proposed projects. The length of the paper (introduction, all chapters, conclusion and references) should be 30-60 pages (footnotes are included; not included are: table of content, acknowledgments, and appendices). 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 the course description (syllabus).

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 course 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 course description (syllabus).

Plagiarism Policy and Academic Integrity

"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".⁴ Students are responsible for understanding the concepts of academic integrity and plagiarism. In order to respect standards of academic ethics and avoid plagiarism, students will be informed about the academic integrity, scientific inquiry and plagiarism in the first year during the debut day and other meetings organized by administration and in the framework of the course "Research Methods and Scientific Writing" in III semester as well. Writing assignments and Master thesis will be checked on plagiarism. TSU Plagiarism policy can be found on the University web-site.

Career opportunity

Master of Public Health degree qualifies for leading positions in Health Care and Public Health services, Governmental, Non-Governmental Organizations and International Organization concerned with public Health projects and initiatives, as well as in professional career in Education and Research in Public Health.

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.

Tuition fees for International students are 4500\$ per year.

⁴ <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/glossary/>

Description of Resources

The foundation for effective implementation of the program is the relevant infrastructure and material and technical resources of the university. That includes study classes and computer labs equipped with appropriate inventory, workrooms for academic and invited staff; Individual meeting rooms; Conference rooms; Computer Resource Center, library, access to electronic resources, such as a HINARI, Elsevier SCOPUS, Elsevier Science Direct, EBSCO Host, JSTOR, as well as e-learning teaching and learning Platform Moodle and the resources (statistical reports, access to databases, data generated from national health registries) of the TSU Faculty of Medicine and NCDC.

At the Faculty of Medicine there is Departments of Public Health (Chair of Public Health and Epidemiology and Chair of Medical Ethics); both academic staff and invited lecturers of the Department of Public Health and academic from the TSU Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences are involved in implementation of the programme.

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 Professor of Public Health Department

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

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

Nato Pitskhelauri- MD, MBE, PhD, 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

Maia Mestvirishvili- PhD, TSU Associate Professor of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

George Lobzhanidze- MD, PhD, invited lecturer

Ekaterine Ruadze- MD, MSc, PMP, invited lecturer

Nikoloz Chkharishvili- MD, PhD, invited lecturer

Giorgi Chakhunashvili- MD, PhD, invited lecturer

International Guest Lecturers:

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

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

Age Wifstad- 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

George Shakarishvili- MD, PhD, Global Fund, Geneva, Switzerland

Program Plan

Course title	Prerequisite	Course status (Mandatory/ elective)	Lecturer/ Lecturers	Total number of ECTS and contact hours/ Independent Work hours	Distribution of ECTS Credits				
					Semesters				
					I	II	III	IV	Total
Evidence-Based Public Health (EBPH)	N/A	Mandatory	N. Kazakhashvili L.Loria	10 ECTS 45/205	10				10
Epidemiology and Biostatistics I (EPB I)	N/A	Mandatory	P.Imnadze E.Ruadze	10 60/190	10				10
Health Promotion (HP)	N/A	Mandatory	N.Pitskhelauri N.Chikhladze	10 45/205	10				10
I Semester – Mandatory component					30				
Health Management, Economics and Policy (HMEP)	N/A	Mandatory	G.Lobzhanidze N. Kazakhashvili	10 45/205		10			10
Epidemiology and Biostatistics II (EPB II)	EPB I	Mandatory	P.Imnadze G.Chakhunashvili	10 60/190		10			10
Environmental Health (ENH)	N/A	Mandatory	K.Dadiani E.Ruadze	10 45/205		10			10
II Semester – Mandatory component					30				
Bioethics (BETH)	N/A	Mandatory	N.Pitskhelauri N.Chikhladze	10 45/205			10		10
Research Methods and Scientific Writing (RMSW)	EPB II	Mandatory	P.Imnadze N.Chkhartishvili	10 45/205			10		10
III Semester – Mandatory component							20		
Qualitative Research Methods (QRM)	N/A	Elective	M. Mestvirishvili	5 30/95			5+5		10
Global Health (GH)	N/A	Elective	N.Chikhladze L.Loria	5 30/95					
Maternal and Child Health Policy and Programs (MCHPP)	N/A	Elective	N. Kazakhashvili L.Loria	5 30/95					
Practical Placement (NCDC track / Hospital track) (PP)	EPB II / HMEP	Elective	P.Imnadze N. Kazakhashvili	5 15/110					
III Semester – Elective component							10		
Master thesis (MT)	RMSW	Mandatory		30				30	30
					30	30	30	30	120

Additional Information:

In the framework of International projects DIKU (SIU) funded CPEA-2015/10057 Project “Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)” **short and long term students mobility at Arctic University of Norway (Norway) for individual courses, joint courses, semester exchange and supervision** is intended. TSU is a part of the **Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation programme** and other students’ exchange and mobility schemes, among them in 2020 virtual mobility schemes in the USA and Romania in the framework of NIH (USA) funded project **iCREATE: Increasing Capacity in Research in Eastern Europe**.

Academic Staff/ Invited lecturers (Bio-sketches)

	<p>Nino Chikhladze – MD, PhD, TSU Professor, Public Health Department, Head of the Medical Ethics Chair, Faculty of Medicine Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Head of the English Master Program “Public Health”, Coordinator of the CPEA-2015/10057 Project “Georgian-Norwegian Collaborative in Public Health (GeNoC-PH)” in Georgia.</p>
<p>Nino Chikhladze is a Head of the Quality Assurance Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU) since 2005.</p> <p>After she graduated from 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 was licensed as a specialist in Public Health and Health Care Management.</p> <p>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 “Public Health”, “Medicine” and “Nursing”. She has been involved in WHO Network of Medical Education Experts (2011).</p> <p>She is an Expert of the UNESCO Global Ethics Observatory. In 2008 she has been awarded UNESCO Certificate of Ethics Teacher.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>She contributes to the management of International projects (financed by NIH (USA), European Union, Norwegian Center for International Collaboration in Education (Norway) 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).</p> <p>Professor Nino Chikhladze has been awarded for her contribution to the Development TSU Medical Faculty by TSU Administration.</p>	



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 (NCDC), 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.



Nato Pitskhelauri - MD, MA, PhD, Associate Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Head of the English Master Program “Public Health”, 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 (Netherland) 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 a several publications, among them “Case based Teaching for Ethical Decision Making” published at University of Leeds (UK).



Nata Kazakhashvili - MD, PhD, TSU Professor, Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine Ivane Javakhashvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), Head of the Georgian medium 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, Since 2020-Gudushauri Hospital.

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.



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).

Since 2004 she is 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.



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

Lasha 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.



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, MD, PhD, currently holds a position of Managing Director at Tbilisi Central Hospital and the same time works as a lecturer at Tbilisi State University.

Professional experience includes hospital administration, clinical medicine (Cardiology), project management, teaching, and biomedical research. Graduate of Aieti Medical School in 1998, George Lobzhanidze has pursued PhD studies at Tbilisi State University (Georgia) and University of Tromso (Norway). 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).

He is an author and co-author of 12 scientific publications (Public Health (Elsevier), Minerva Cardioangiologica, etc.) and 2 textbooks.



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 from Preventive Medicine Faculty of 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.



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

Nikoloz Chkhartishvili 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, as well as several international research collaborations.

Dr Chkhartishvili has been leading or has been engaged as a co-investigator in a number of research projects on various aspects related to HIV, HCV, COVID-19 and health service delivery.

He has 57 peer-reviewed publications with 713 citations and h-index of 15 per Google Scholar.



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

Giorgi Chakhunashvili is the Head of One Health Division at the 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 member of Zoonoses journal editorial board, author, co-author of numerous scientific articles, guidelines, and editor of journals.



Maia Mestvirishvili - PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Doctor of psychological Sciences, Associate Professor at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. In 2006-2011 she received research and academic scholarships at the Universities of Columbia (USA), Berkeley (USA) and Leuven (Belgium). Her major research interests are:

social identities, stigma and coping, moral judgment and religious attitudes. For her research “Concealable and Vivid Stigma in Social Minority Groups” she was awarded by Presidential grant for young Scientists (Georgian National Science Foundation). She is a principle investigator of research Projects funded By ‘Academic Swiss Caucasus Net’ (ASCN) and ‘Norwegian Institute of International Affairs’ (NUPI). Dr. Mestvirishvili is an author of several international conference papers and research articles.

Reference Points

- WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce in the European Region, 2020
- 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), 2011
- European Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, ASPHER, 2011
- Tuning Guidelines of Competence Development in the Study Field of Public Health, 2012
- European Consortium for accreditation. The guide to quality in internationalization. ECA, 2017
- 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/ka/quality-assurance/page/>

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/271255/public_health_-_master

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

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

Umea University, Sweden <https://www.umu.se/en/education/programme-syllabus/vafhm/rev/1986/>

Babes Bolyai University, Department of Public Health, Romania

<https://publichealth.ro/education/masters-degree/>

University of Iowa, College of public Health, USA

<https://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/mph/>

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of public Health, USA

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