



70 Years Anniversary of Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Medical University of Plovdiv

The Department of Microbiology at the Medical Faculty in Plovdiv was established in 1945 by Prof. Elisey Yanev. Since then it has developed as a strong training and research structure at the Medical University of Plovdiv, generating and disseminating knowledge. The academic progress is due to the enthusiasm of Department's leaders and the academic staff - highly motivated and hard-working people, dedicated to microbiology and immunology.

Today the Department of Microbiology and Immunology trains nearly 1000 students annually from four faculties - Medical, Dental Medical, Pharmaceutical and Public Health, and the Medial College. The traditions in education are interwoven with stateliness and innovation, immersion and originality in research. The quality in education is the main priority attempting to establish the Department as a symbol of knowledge and attractive university place where traditions, maturity, youth and enthusiasm meet to share dreams and ideas.

The ceremony was held on November 20 this year. A day before the celebration started at the Auditorium Building with the inspiring lecture of Prof. Beatrice Riteau, a famous virologist and immunologist from Aix-Marseille Université in France. She shared her experience on the good and the bad side of cytokines during influenza virus infections and involvement of hemostasis giving suggestions for new strategies in treatment of influenza. Dr. Riteau was introduced to students and teachers at the Medical University of Plovdiv by Prof. Dr Angel S. Galabov, virologist, regular member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The impressive history of the Department and the new tendencies in research and training were presented by Prof. Marianna Murdjeva, Head of the Department. An exhibition of paintings, art photography and lace was demonstrated by talented microbiologists and immunologists from the Department. A small museum collection containing old microscopes, scales, tubes and loops was opened. Students, teachers and guests from other academic organizations in Sofia and Stara Zagora attended the festivity.

The research of the Department is focused on studying phenotypic and genetic mechanisms of resistance to antimicrobial agents of clinically important bacteria - *Staphylococcus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *Acinetobacter*, *Pseudomonas*; microbiological and epidemiological characteristics of vaginal infections in women at reproductive age; viral markers of occult hepatitis; immunological aspects of chronic stress.

Marianna Murdjeva

Vice-Rector of Medical University of Plovdiv and
Head of Department of Microbiology and Immunology