

Georgian Association of Medical Specialties  
(GAMS)  
X International Conference

“Spine and Spine Cord Disorders-Challenges and Pitfalls”  
November 15, 2025

Tbilisi Saburtalo Hotel by Mercure,  
15 Alexander Kazbegi Ave, 0160, Tbilisi, Georgia

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Organized by

Georgian Association of Medical Specialties in collaboration with  
David Tvildiani Medical University and New Vision University

## Agenda



**Prof. George Chakhava – Organizing Committee Chair**

**Prof. Maia Beridze – Organizing Committee Co-Chair**

**Organizing Committee: Assoc.Prof. Ilia Nadareishvili, Assoc.Prof. Maxim lavich, Miranda Demuria MD, Irakli Apshinashvili MD, Giorgi Matchavariani MD**

	<b>Registration</b>
	<b>Opening</b>
	<b>Session 1</b>
10:00-10:20	Optimizing Symptoms Control in Spinal Cord Injury: Current Strategies and Update - Tanya Gurevich Assoc. Professor FEAN, Director, Movement Disorders Unit, PF Center of Excellence, Parkinson's & Neuroautonomic Service, Israeli Huntington's Disease Centre, and Huntington Study Group, Neurological Institute, Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center; Sackler School of Medicine & Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University, Israel
10:20-10:40	Immunocompetence and comorbidity in Multiple Sclerosis - George Chakhava, Assoc.Prof.at D. Tvildiani Medical University, GAMS representative in UEMS Board of Neurology; M. Demuria MD. University Hospital of Jo Ann, Tbilisi, Georgia
10:40-11:00	Spinal Stroke in young adults and rare diseases triggering this pathology – Maia Beridze Professor, Head of Neurology Department Tbilisi State Medical University (TSMU), Representative of GAMS in UEMS Board of Neurology Tbilisi, Georgia
11:00-11:20	Spinal Atrophy Management, Achievements and Challenges- Nana Kvirkvelia Professor, Department of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine; Head of Neuromyological Department at Petre Sarajishvili Institute of Neurology, President of Georgian Association of Neuromuscular Diseases and Electromyography; Elene Nebadze MD, Petre Sarajishvili Institute of Neurology
11:20-11:30	Panel Discussion
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break

	<b>Session 2</b>
12:00-12:20	The structure-function paradox during traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI) – Ia Rukhadze Assoc. Professor, Head of Department of Neurology of N. Kipshidze Central University Clinic of Tbilisi State Medical University, Tbilisi, Georgia
12:20-12:40	Inflammatory-Demyelinating Pathology of the Spinal Cord: Challenges and Therapeutic options - Marina Janelidze Professor, Board Member of GAMS Section Neurology, Chairperson Department of Neurology Tbilisi State Medical University, Head of Department Neurology, S.Khechinashvili University Hospital Tbilisi, Georgia
12:40-13:00	Neuropathies and Anticonvulsants - Benefits and Problems - Sofia Kasradze, Professor, Director of the Institute of Neurology and Neuropsychology President of the Georgian Chapter of International League against Epilepsy Representative of GAMS in UEMS Board of Neurology Discussion Tbilisi, Georgia
13:00-13:20	The spectrum of Spinal Cord Infections: Endemic Pathogens and Emerging Threats Tamar Akhvlediani Neurologist, Clinic Neolab, Chief of the Neurology, Psychiatry and Narcology Department of the Georgian-American University (GAU), Tbilisi, Georgia.
13:20-13:40	European Academy of Neurology's update on management of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Mariam Kekenadze- MD, PhD - Tbilisi State Medical University, University College London; Shorena Vashadze - MD, PhD -Associate Professor, Batumi State University
13:40-14:00	"Magnetic-resonance imaging features of non-traumatic dorsal myelopathy" or "Magnetic-resonance imaging findings in non-traumatic dorsal myelopathy" - Sophio Mikiashvili Assoc. Professor CMC - Caucasus Medical Centre, Aversi Clinic, American Hospital of Tbilisi, Tbilisi, Georgia
14:00-14:20	Discussion
14:20-15:00	Lunch

Session 3	
15:00-15:20	Pitfalls and Challenges in the Treatment of Spinal Cord Disorders in Intensive Care Unit - Olegs Sabelnikovs, Associate Professor Head of the Department, Department of Clinical Skills and Medical Technology. Academic Staff, Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care. European Board of Anaesthesiology Riga, Latvia.
15:20-15:40	"Uncommon and Underdiagnosed Cervical Spinal Cord Syndromes" - Madona Sekhniashvili MD, PhD. Head of neurophysiology centre at Caucasus Medical Centre.
15:40-16:00	Minimal Invasive Surgery of the Spinal Tumors - Irakli Chelishvili Professor Head of the Neurosurgical Department of Multi-profile Medical Centre Innova, Tbilisi, Georgia
16:00-16:20	Surgical Treatment of the Spinal Cord Tumors – Lado Tsikarishvili Head of Neurosuregry department at Caucasus Medical Centre, Head of Neurosurgical Servises at Iashvili Central Childrens Hospital
16:20-16:40	Endovascular treatment of spinal vascular malformations - Mirza Khinikadze, Professor Neurosurgeon, Caucasus medical centre, Vice dean at NewVision University; Koka Gogichashvili, Neurosurgeon, Caucasus medical center. NewVision University
16:40-17:00	"The Importance of Laboratory Testing in the Diagnosis of Spinal Cord Diseases: Modern Approaches" - Nino Bakuradze Clinical Manager, GLMA Board Member; EFLM Member; IFCC committee (TH-GLQ) - Corresponding member
17:00-17:30	Discussion
17:30-18:00	Lunch

## About GAMS

The reorganization and rebranding of the association are currently in progress. The members of the temporary board-council of our association are professors: Nino Tabagari, Tamar Goderidze, Mikheil Okujava, Ilia Nadareishvili and Giorgi Matchavariani (Youth Section of GAMS)

The Association of Medical Specialties of Georgia was established in 2006 as a non-governmental and non-profit medical association. Its purpose is to promote and develop cooperation among doctors and medical specialists, to discuss, process, and provide information on problematic issues of medical regulation, and to promote the principles of continuous medical education and continuous professional development among Georgian doctors. It also aims to promote the implementation and dissemination of the experience of the world's leading countries in the healthcare system in Georgia.

The fact that GAMS is the official representative of the European Union in Georgia is of great importance. Based on the agreement with the Association of European Medical Specialties, the Association of Medical Specialties of Georgia has also been granted the right to appoint two representatives from Georgia in various sections of medical specialties within the Union of European Medical Specialists. This allows for a more active involvement of our **leading physicians** in the European accreditation process, as well as in the development and implementation of the European postgraduate curriculum. Additionally, it **gives us** the opportunity to participate in primary examinations at various international events alongside the relevant specialty sections.

Our association has initiated a project to create a register of doctors and nurses within the medical self-government structure, aiming to reform postgraduate and continuing medical education in Georgia. This **reform comprises** improvements in the teaching process through the introduction of integrated medical education, case-oriented teaching, and the utilization of modern teaching, learning, and evaluation methods. The transformation of postgraduate and continuing education will undoubtedly contribute to the enhancement of the healthcare system in Georgia, ultimately having a positive impact on the health of the population.

Members of the Georgian Association of Medical Specialties (GAMS) actively collaborate with their European and American partners at various meetings and seminars. Clear examples of this collaboration include:

1. Tbilisi, December 5-6, 2007: An International Conference-Round Table on "Challenges of Biological Terrorism and Mutual Use in Natural Sciences."
2. Tbilisi, on October 3-4, 2011: A conference addressing the problematic issues of continuous medical education and continuous professional development, titled "Challenges of Medical Education/Medical Education in the European Union and Ways of

Implementation in Georgia." This conference was held with the support of the European Commission in Georgia under the auspices of the Association of Medical Specialties of Georgia and in collaboration with leading organizations of the European Union (UEMS, EMA, and European CME Forum). It also featured the participation of the leaders from doctors' **associations of different** countries, including Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, and England.

3. In **September** 14 to 16, 2012, the III International Georgian-Polish Conference took place in Tbilisi. The **congress showed the** participation of leading specialists from the USA, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Belarus, totalling approximately 200 delegates. During the event, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Polish Chamber of Doctors and Dentists and the **Georgian Association** of Medical Specialties.

The III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX International Conferences of GAMS, "Multidisciplinary Approaches in Neurology" on August 12, 2017, "Current Issues in Neurology and Psychiatry" on February 24, 2018, and "Multidisciplinary Pain Management: Modern Approaches" on September 28-29, 2019 (in collaboration with D. Tvildiani Medical University, I. Beritashvili Experimental Medicine Centre, and the University of Washington (Seattle), **by support of** I. Javakhishvili State University and Tbilisi State Medical University), are noteworthy. On February 12, 2022, the first hybrid conference and round table, "Challenges in Neuroscience and Public Health during the COVID-19 Infection - New Approaches," took place. On November 19, 2022, in Telavi, with the support of D. Tvildiani University, another event, "Management of Pain and Cognitive Disorders in the Era of Evidence-Based and Personalized Medicine," was organized. On September 16-17, 2023 "Neurochallenges 2023 in the Era of Evidence-Based and Personalized Medicine" took place in Chakvi, Adjara Georgia, "Multidisciplinary Approaches: Innovations and Challenges of Practical Medicine in the Era of Evidence-Based and Personalized Medicine" October 6-8, 2024, organized in collaboration with David Tvildiani Medical University and Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, with participation Ilia State University.

**We would like to emphasize** that in the implementation of these activities, the Association of Medical Specialties of Georgia receives active support from the Union of European Medical Specialties, the primary and leading regulatory medical association in Europe, as well as the European Medical Association (EMA), the European Continuing Medical Education Forum for (European CME Forum), and the European Medical Association (European Medical Association EMA).

Examples of the work of UEMS sections involving specialists from Georgia include:

1. The delegate in internal medicine actively participates in the Working Group for the Revision of the European Curriculum of Internal Medicine. Given the relevant

specialties and experience at David Tvildiani Medical University, six members are actively engaged in the working group, with responsibilities divided as follows: curriculum revision, examination board, and Question Writing Group (MCQ Tests).

2. From 2020 to 2022, the GAMS delegate in the Public Health Section coordinated one sub-group of the UEMS COVID-19 Task Force, focusing on communication strategies. The results of this work were published in the form of a short article. Additionally, they participated in the work of another sub-group, which focused on prevention.

3. Through the efforts of the Radiological Section, the European Radiological School received accreditation from the Accreditation Council of the European Union of Medical Specialists during the Congress of Radiologists in Georgia.

4. In 2022, the organization actively participated in the annual conference of the Association of Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE) for 2023, which centered around "The Medical School of the Future: Ensuring Quality." During the conference, the association's president moderated a panel discussion with David Gordon, the president of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME), and Robin Stevenson, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Continuing Medical Education.

5. In September, the Georgian translation of the newly approved neurology curriculum, known as "European Training Requirements in Neurology," was presented and discussed at the VIII International Conference of the Georgian Association of Medical Specialties.

6. On 18-20 April 2024 the David Tvildiani Medical University hosted the ORPHEUS (The Organization for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the European System) annual conference on „Innovative Strategies and Concepts for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences”, with the support of Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia and under the patronage of ORPHEUS, the association's president moderated a panel discussion with Director of Doctoral Education at Karolinska Institute, past president of ORPHEUS: Professor Bob Harris.

At UEMS Council in Brussels on 26-27.04.24 Georgia-GAMS was endorsed as the host of UEMS Council. The Autumn Council 18-19.10.25 will take place in Tbilisi Georgia.

Relevant publications:

Nadareishvili, I.; Bazas, T.; Petrosillo, N.; Berce, V.; Firth, J.; Mansilha, A.; Leventer, M.; Renieri, A.; Zampolini, M.; Papaloi, V. The Medical Community's Role in Communication Strategies during Health Crises—Perspective from European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). *Infect. Dis. Rep.* 2023, 15, 370-376. <https://doi.org/10.3390/idr15040037>

George Chakhava & Nino Kandelaki (2013) Overview of legal aspects of Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Professional Development in Georgia, *Journal of European CME*, 2:1, 19-23, DOI: 10.3109/21614083.2013.814570

These are the strategic tasks of our association:

1. Coordinated management of the postgraduate and continuing medical education system by an independent multidisciplinary representative council and professional medical associations (including GAMS) in Georgia. This cooperation involves collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of IDPs from the occupied territories of Georgia, and the Ministry of Labour, Health, **and Social Affairs**.
  2. Promotion of the mobility of doctors and patients. The rapid expansion of medical knowledge and the dissemination of information through modern means of communication have led us to the concept of "complex modern patient."
  3. Promotion and advocacy for high standards of medical procedures.
  4. Implementation of European directives while considering the interests and specifics of the medical community in Georgia. Preference is given to the gradual development of continuous medical education.
  5. Promotion of the adaptation of international guidelines in Georgia.
  6. Establishment of a registry of doctors, the introduction of the "badge of honour," and the use of non-punitive measures in the healthcare system.
  7. Increased attention to the qualification of specialists rather than just the accreditation of events.
  8. Development and provision of an organizational structure and management for continuing medical education, in line with basic and quality improvement standards.
  9. Encouragement of the promotion of principles of best medical practice.
- Based on the above, we **would** like to cooperate with all interested parties.