

Address of Tbilisi Fourth International Symposium:

Tbilisi Fourth International Symposium “New Steps in Critical Care Medicine” deems expedient to declare that the most humane and essential field known under the name of medicine is experiencing crisis. Medicine is needed by every human being to improve his/her health, and prolong or preserve life. Hence this address is equally relevant to everybody irrespective of citizenship, nationality, gender, religious beliefs, outlook, professional affiliation or social status. The crisis has common characteristics: internationality– it is manifesting in every country irrespective of its stage of development; and universality – is equally experienced in every sphere of medical profession, be it professional development, medical practice or scientific research. Its existence is confirmed by strikes of medical personnel observed throughout the world. The deficit of highly qualified health care workforce should also be mentioned that in tandem with the existing diminishing trend of people willing to acquire medical profession is becoming rather detrimental. The medical profession has lost its status value, moreover, the society nowadays stopped regarding doctor’s words as having the healing impacts. Other examples of the crisis in health care institutions are the high incidence and mortality rates even with such diseases that were well-studied, with treatment methods identified (malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc.). Similar problems are observed in diseases with treatment methods not yet fully researched, despite of tremendous resources thrown into such studies (AIDS, cancer, etc.). Other confirmations manifest in impediments in daily medical practices during global catastrophes that render profession very vulnerable. Medical errors and restricted safety options for patients and their treating staff, as well as many other factors are also in this pool. There are various reasons that caused this crisis, though the most prominent is the „failure“of menegment systems that were based on Semashko’s theories prevailing in socialist countries, and on Bismark’s and Beverage’s theories – in capitalist countries. Currently there is no socialism of capitalism. Contemporary world is in a stage of paving the ground for more humane society that fuses the concepts of „democracy“ and „national religion“ and „national culture“. Hence the priority should be given to elaboration of such systems that can be viable in postcapitalist and postsocialist regimes. This said, it might be more expedient to created conditions for coexistence of mixed systems in individual countries where the socially vulnerable will be provided health care in public istablishments and others – in private insurance companies. However, the existence of other systems is equally possible taking into account the state of economy of the specific country, its legislative system, national traditions and other factors. In this respect it is crucial that the system covers all layers of the country’s population. Besides, the quality of the supplied services should be equally acceptable for everybody. The multi-year experience of Georgian Critical Care Medicine has confirmed that the significance does not rest with the amount of finances available, but rather with their proper disposal. From other aspects, creation of regional medical services through cooperation or other forms of collaboration between the countries in a specific region might also be rather important. This is especially relative for the emergency medicine that plays a crucial role in mitigation of global catastrophes. Schematic design of such modes is given in the theory “Medicine with limited resources” and “New NATO for twenty first century” model. Requiring the UN member countries to cut down their military budgets and redirect these resources into health care services might also be an important step. However, the most important is that every addressee of this declaration acknowledges the severity of the situation. Symposium Chairmen: Zurab Kheladze, Zviad Kheladze