Introduction in the universe of Tirgu Mures
The universe of Tîrgu Mureș

You are in Romania, in the heart of Transylvania, in the city of magnolias. A city that once visited will remain for ever in the memory of your heart, as an album not full of pictures but full of life itself.

The alleys and parks in our city welcome you with flowers, which symbolize the love of the citizens for beauty. Extremely beautiful magnolias perfumes the central Place of Roses, impress the visitors with their color and elegance and gave the name “city of magnolias” to our city, a place where the guests always enjoy to return.

Tirgu Mures is an old traditional academic city, having a mixed Romanian and Hungarian culture, with a touch of history present at every step. You will feel this touch if you allow it to walk you on its narrow streets where every corner whispers a story of the past.

And when you got bored of the sobriety of the buildings, you can relax uphill, on Cornești Plateau, which offers a great panorama of the city, or have a pleasant walk in the Zoo. Downhill, you can visit the recreational Weekend Complex located on a stream, the Mureș River, unique of its kind in South-Eastern Europe.

Today Tîrgu Mureș promises something to each of us; restaurants scattered all over the city centre are eager to demonstrate their professionalism in traditional Romanian and Hungarian culinary art; the theatre, the philharmonic and the museums closely intertwine the cultures of the two nations. The cathedrals and the ancient fortress are excellent places to get acquainted with history and spirituality; libraries shall be addressed to the heart and mind alike; the parks delight your soul and guide your steps.

Up the hill lies, elegantly as it is, one of the most prestigious state institutions of higher education in Romania, with a unique multicultural and multilingual status, The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mureș, by which the city takes on a youthful vibration given by the thousands of students that hosts.

Tîrgu Mureș, an essence of spirituality and intellectuality, will sprinkle the magic of your journey and will always remain a beautiful memory in your heart.
The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures – an inspiring place
An inspiring place

Situated on a hill that overlooks the city, an imposing building offers a unique perspective of the place – The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mureş. Being considered, for a long time, a heritage of the city, the prestigious building represents a symbol of the high academic and cultural values of our region. From the entrance, the overwhelming beauty of the place is perfectly complemented by the architectural harmony of the main building.

The dendrological park that surrounds the University on all sides protects it from the agitation of the town as an island of greenery perfectly integrated in the surrounding vegetation. Behind the building, a well-attended botanical garden is a place for recreation, serving also as the base material for students of the Faculty of Pharmacy, a unique advantage that sets it apart from other medical training centers in Romania. Here the student has the possibility to study both aromatic plants, with their distinct scent, as well as the toxic ones, which remain however a priceless source of active ingredients. The herb garden complements the landscape that seems a world removed from a story.

Hidden from the eyes of the passersby, the University laboratories (located in the main building as well as in the annex ones) offer a surprising shift from the external beauty of the building that has the emblem of time, to the dynamic reality of the twenty-first century technology. The Integrated Dentistry Centre is a modern, practical place which impresses you with its beautiful and sober architecture, appropriate for the general appearance of the entire academic complex but also by the futuristic and cutting edge equipment, the dream of every aspiring dental student.

New modern buildings, such as the new Faculty of Pharmacy and the new Center of Research, are designed to provide excellent learning facilities and highest standard innovative research infrastructure for both the students and the teaching staff, in a modern architectural complex.

To all this, the vast Sports base is added-one of the most modern sports facilities in Romania, including tennis courts, lighted football fields, a recently opened SPA center with a large swimming pool, and a gym hall. All these make the University Sports Club a facility unique of this kind in Romania and contribute to an unforgettable experience - studentship at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mures.
The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures – an outstanding medical and pharmaceutical university
Perspectives

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mureș contrives intelligence, creativity and diversity of its available resources in a stimulating environment for students and teachers to serve the city and society and to remain a landmark in the national and international academic world.

In this way, the University will be able to generate innovation and progress for society as well as professional fulfilment for its members.

Mission and values

We belong to a university tradition that has an inheritance worthy to be transmitted to the successors. The mission of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș is to generate and transfer knowledge to the society through:

- Training of highly qualified medical specialists;
- Enrichment and dissemination of scientific, cultural, social and ethical values in the medical and pharmaceutical fields;
- Promoting critical thinking among professionals and the public;
- Scientific and cultural development in the medical and pharmaceutical fields;
- Assertion of national scientific values in the medical field and integration into the European practice;
- Development of consciousness and of the behavior of promoting human freedom and democratic principles
The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures – an outstanding medical and pharmaceutical university

Medical education in Târgu Mureș began in 1945, when the Faculty of Medicine was founded as a branch of the Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca. In 1948, after the Education Reform, this was transformed into the Medical and Pharmaceutical Institute of Tirgu Mures, and in 1991, the Institute was given the name of University of Medicine and Pharmacy of TârguMureș.

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș functions as a public institution with legal status, being the only university in the field of healthcare where teaching is in Romanian, Hungarian, and English. Graduates of study programmes can benefit from different levels of academic degrees: bachelor, master’s, doctoral. The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Târgu Mureș, a famous academic institution, is accessible to all Romanian and foreign citizens without any discrimination and as a centre of excellence which provides knowledge and competence in various forms: initial and continuous training of specialists, research, expertise and consultancy in its field of competence.

The years past since the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures has been founded has meant the necessary time to define its own identity. By tradition, it has become a landmark in the Romanian medical life. Today, it is a historical witness of hard work, commitment, responsibility and dynamism, put at the service of several generations of specialists in the field of health.

The quality of medical education in our university is a defining feature, an emergent property resulting from design, integrity and resources which promotes and encourages a policy of quality.
At present, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mures runs the following programs of studies:

### Licence and master’s degree studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Study programme</th>
<th>ARACIS Accreditation/Authorisation</th>
<th>Number of credits</th>
<th>Course type</th>
<th>Teaching language</th>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>Faculty of Medicine</td>
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<td>Accredited</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Romanian Hungarian English</td>
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<td>Midwifery</td>
<td>Authorised</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Accredited</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical education and sports</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dental technicians</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dental assistance</td>
<td>Authorised</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Romanian Hungarian</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pharmacy assistance</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Romanian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medical cosmetics, Technology of cosmetic products</td>
<td>Authorised</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Romanian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Accredited</td>
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<td>Full-time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The management of health services</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Faculty of Pharmacy</td>
<td>The quality of drug, food and environment</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Accredited</td>
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<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Romanian</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PhD School</td>
<td>Advanced medical and pharmaceutical scientific research</td>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Romanian</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Quality and competence of European medical education

A physician or a pharmacist should be able to answer to two questions: why? and how? If the first question is particularly a theoretical one, appealing to the information gathered over time, and to the ability to integrate and synthesize, the reply to the second one implies a quantifiable demonstration of the ability to do what one knows. And that is acquired through practice, through repetition.

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy initiated a process of curriculum reform as far as the practical and clinical training is concerned so that students get a clear view on what they need to learn to do over the years of study. In this regard, a Case-based learning module has been initiated in the clinical internships and a Simulation and Medical Skills Centre was open within the University, which has three departments: Medical Skills, Medical Simulation and Standardized Patient. All these measures had a substantial contribution to increase the quality of medical education provided to students, in accordance with the highest European standards for medical education.

A component of this endeavor is the introduction of the Notebook of Practical Skills for the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. The notebook is intended to be a portfolio of maneuvers and techniques that the student has learned and exercised during his/her internships and practical lab works. This tool accompanies the student and is a part of his/her assessment upon graduation. The printed version of the notebook is complemented by an online mobile application that any student of the University can download and install on an electronic communication device.

The application is just one of the features of a more complex e-UMF platform recently implemented, a complex digital web-based tool that provides numerous facilities for the students and for the academic staff, including online applications for admission, online library, access to University Management System, online access to scientific journals and articles, online handling of administrative forms and a very complex e-learning platform, which provides the students a very user-friendly online learning system with access to books, printed lecture notes and powerpoint presentations of the courses.
The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures – a research university
The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mures – a research university

Health is a priority of European research. Currently, multidisciplinary and intersectoral research projects from the recently opened Horizon 2020 programme are aimed at improving the overall quality of life by preserving health: improving health and ageing in good health.

To ensure a high level of health protection, to better understand human diseases and discover new remedies, our university joined in the activities and strategies of European research in health, targeting different directions: biomedicine, genomics and biotechnology.

Starting from the fundamental idea that a university without research is only a school, scientific research, an issue of increasing complexity, has been and still is the main objec-
tive of our University, involving teaching staff, doctoral students, residents or students. Our University has made financial investments to support research, developing the material background, fostering human resources. Currently there are flexible and dynamic interdisciplinary research teams, whose leaders are role models for young researchers for the doctoral students and the undergraduate ones. The University organizes an annual internal competition and provides funding for two types of research grants: one intended for young researchers and the other for multidisciplinary research teams.

The University has research laboratories with advanced equipment. The Center of Advanced Medical and Pharmaceutical Research, projected on a total surface of 4.092 square meters on 5 levels, from a budget of 10.47 million EUR, represents an example of a high quality research infrastructure on international level, serving as a reference center for both basic and clinical medical research in this country. The modern facilities in this unique research complex include a DNA and plasma bank, that will collect and store biologic materials and stem cells from patients, serving as a unique source of data for future research, and several high-technology laboratories with latest generation equipments: immunology, chromatography and mass spectrometry, laser flow citometry, confocal microscopy, molecular biology, genetics, advanced cardiac imaging, metabolomics and others.

The results of our highest standard scientific activity is reflected by publications in prestigious journals, participations in grants/ research contracts (CNCSIS, CEEX, Partnerships, Capacities, FP7, PN II or IDEI modules), innovative patents in the field and participation in national and international scientific meetings in all medical areas. All these various and complex aspects of ongoing research overlap in our university and sustain each other to form a core value in research.

Our University publishes 3 international scientific journals indexed in prestigious databases: Acta Medica Marisiensis, Romanian Review of Laboratory Medicine and The Journal of Critical Care Medicine, providing the readers with the most recent advances in the field of different medical specialties. The international editorial team of these journals, represented by European and international scientific experts who are world-wide recognized in their field of research, is carefully monitoring not only the scientific level of the articles published in these journals, but also the adherence to ethics standard as defined in international conventions and to the publication standards as defined in the COPE Code of Conduct, in order to ensure a high integrity in scientific publication.

International cooperation with prestigious medical universities from different European countries had a substantial contribution to the development of scientific research and evidence-based medicine, in the same time with the initiation and development of a curricular reform process in our university. We have a close collaboration with several international experts in the field of scientific research and medical education, who are deeply involved in our projects, bringing international expertise and knowledge into our academic community.

Starting with 2013 the PhD School from our University launched the Master in Scientific Research, unique of its kind in Romania, in which the graduates have the opportunity to learn how to conduct a scientific research according to the most rigorous international rules and regulations, how to write a successful application for research grants and how to disseminate the results of their research on a large scale.
The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures – unique student experience
The young people who come in Tîrgu Mures as students easily fall in love with this romantic and cheerful city which is full of surprises, with a variety of traditions and offers for the mind and the soul. The two ethnic cultures that represent us have woven so tightly that they have left their mark on tradition, education, customs, cuisine and student life as well. Students from across the country or from abroad have joined us. There are several undergraduate programmes in our city ranging from the medical to the artistic, economic or engineering fields, each adding a spot of colour to the portrait of our city.
On the streets of our city, in parks, at concerts or in libraries one meets students who speak many languages and at the same time a mutual one because in this family we have recently adopted students from around the world who come to the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tirgu Mures to study in English, each of them from another country, with another culture, another accent or skin colour, other desires and dreams which they share with the other ones, and thus we find ourselves at the dinner table among a real European family.

The universities of Tirgu Mures constantly prepare for many students a diary full of vibration, a show of emotions. Concepts of professional and social life have risen here. Depending on experiences, one can compare the University with an excerpt from a tumultuous work by Bach or an intimate caress, a whisper sweet of Vivaldi’s. This academic world has, for many people, turned into a sanctuary of promises, of motivation, of the desire for knowledge and proving the best one can do. Sometimes it is the ego with which they merge, sometimes a dreary maze with pastels which claims the key to knowledge, patience, the thoroughness and responsibility.

Hardly having left high school, each of the students have had different parts on this academic scene, some probably minor parts, dusty ones but which in time have become major parts, with a certain perspective, parts which show that everybody plays an important role in society.

The students from the Drama School express our emotions, those attending the School of Economics guide us in life and society, those from the Faculty of Engineering assure the future of science and equipment, and those from the Medical School look after the bodies and souls of the other ones, as in a real family.

One student recently confessed something that I had always known: “For me, the University was a thrilling puzzle where with patience and a sense of responsibility I distinctly unravelled its mysteries and role. And it has marked me forever. And I will return to this place, as often as I can, because this university is always young, dynamic, challenging and open...”

Here in Tirgu Mures the prestige of the medical society was born in which ethics and love for the human being are printed on one’s business card. In this way, student life is metamorphosed into a mix of powerful emotions. Here students learn and feel the meaning of the word respect together with their teachers, they learn that fair play of the mind in confrontation with their opponents and they become the accountants of their personal priorities.

Here, on the hill, there is big bustle in the classrooms or laboratories, and in the sports basements of European level, in the student dormitories, all of which are places of living and learning in community, in the impressive and quiet libraries where we discover books, in the noisy groups of foreign students who chose this university for training, in rooms full of students at congresses of international opening and value, in the university park brimming with colour and freshness, at the town days intertwined with Medifarm days, sports competitions in which the student finds his hidden humour. All these complete the profile of the Mures student, which defines itself and it is defined by the town which welcomes the student.
In every summer, our University organizes the “Junior Summer School”, addressed to scholars graduating the XIth class, during which they have the possibility to experience the life as a student in our university (participating to teaching courses and seminars, having examinations, being involved in the social life of the students), in order to help them to take the right choice when deciding about their future studies.

The unique experience of being a student in Tîrgu-Mures dictates an alert professional pace for the young who feel the pulse of the society of tomorrow...

**Comfort of students, a priority**

The university has four student dormitories with an accommodation capacity of 1176 places and all the rooms have internet access, the offices are equipped with microwaves, cookers and there are bathrooms with washing machines on each floor. Students can also have the main meals of the day at the university canteen which has a capacity of 80 seats and is located in the immediate vicinity of the main building.

The university campus has a sports base consisting of two sport halls (one of them having a total surface of 1900 m2), four tennis courts, two mini-football fields, a force and fitness room and a 260 m2 swimming pool, all of which are open with priority for the classes in the curriculum, but also for sport leisure practice.
**Docendo discimus!**

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Tîrgu Mures, an academic sanctuary emblematic for this area of the country, known and recognized here and abroad, has been functioning for seven decades, during which thousands of doctors and pharmacists have been formed here to devote themselves to the most noble mission in the service of man, saving lives.

The profession for which the students of the University of Tîrgu Mures prepare involves, first of all, the cultivation of native qualities and a series of factors and conditions: competence and knowledge acquired through study and research, dedication and respect for people and implicit humanism, generosity and tolerance, the latter being a sine-qua-non binder of our academic society.

We are heirs and messengers of cultures which, though sometimes distinct, have influenced each other. Harmonizing them into a constructive form of multiculturalism can and must induce a synergistic effect and act as a major factor of progress of our University.

The student-physician-lecturer relationship is the triad which functions, interacts, stimulates, constantly challenges and remains continuously perfectible. Docendo discimus! - Learning by teaching! - is the motto that I suggest to my colleagues and I assume on their behalf. We have knowledge and values that we need to transmit to those around us. A creative transfer of information and professional experience will stimulate us towards continuous improvement.

For students, this is a firm promise, they are the direct beneficiaries of a modern view on the continuous preparation and demanding training in the years of study, by their active participation in school governance process.

Our university will become more competitive as the educational offer will keep both the tradition - including the quality of medical, pharmaceutical, didactic and scientific act-, and the progress, by a constant adaptation to the requirements of the European medical market.

*Rector*  
*Prof. Leonard Azamfirei*
Rector’s speech
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