**Results.** 96.2% seek information related to the travel destination, but the health field occupies only 6.2% of the respondents' interest. 55.7% do not seek information on infectious diseases related to the visited-region, the main reason being the conviction that they are not at risk of contracting a disease during the trip. 44.3% sought such information, the main source being the internet.64.7% believe that vaccines provide basic protection, 29.1% that they are safe, 4.9% consider they are not needed, and 1.2% believe they have adverse effects. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated respondents feel they should be more informed about the health risks associated with their travel destination.

**Conclusions.** This study has shown an inadequate level of medical students knowledge and poor utilization of travel medicine services. Those who have received advice on minimizing health risks during travel, including the risk for infectious diseases, and the opportunity for relevant vaccination and chemoprophylaxis, tend to practice more frequently preventive measures prior to an international travel. This study recommends the development of a well-structured travel medicine service with the needed educational promotional strategy.

Key words: travel, students, infectious diseases, prophylaxis

## 341. THE MEDICAL-SOCIAL IMPACT OF PREMATURE BIRTHS

Author: Magdalina Zlatova

Scientific adviser: Margine Leonid, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Social Medicine and Health Management, *Nicolae Testemitanu* State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

**Introduction.** Premature birth is a major problem of contemporary obstetrics, but also of public health, whose incidence is increasing in the developed countries. Pregnancy duration, fetal body weight, physical and neurological condition are directly correlated with mortality rate and comorbidities of premature babies.

**Aim of the study.** Evaluation of the incidence, risk and medico-social impact of premature births in dependence on body mass and gestational age.

**Materials and methods.** As study material of premature births served statistics of years 2016-2019, the risk factors and causes of morbidity and mortality in newborns. Were questioned 52 children over one year old, born prematurely.

**Results**. Several risk factors were detected, the most important being prematurity. The medicosocial impact of preterm births is highlighted in the perinatal period by the high mortality of the newborns. With advancing age, the negative impact is diminished. After the age of one year, the risks of preterm babies do not have a statistically significant difference with those born at term.

**Conclusions.** Premature births have multifactorial etiology. The medico-social impact of premature births is enhanced by morbidity and mortality in the perinatal period.

**Key words:** Premature birth, Risk factors, Death rate, Morbidity