

CHRONICLE

Address to the Ceremony dedicated to the 70th Anniversary of Nicolae Testemitsanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy

Nicolae Sulac National Palace Moldova Concert, Chisinau, October 08, 2015

Professor David Gordon

World Federation for Medical Education



State Secretary, Prime Minister, representatives of the government of the Republic of Moldova, friends, colleagues and students!

Above all, I would like to address what I say to my good friend and colleague, Rector Ion Ababii.

First, I must apologize that I cannot speak to you in the

Romanian language, and I am sure you will understand if I speak in English. I am greatly honored to be here at this celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the University.

A seventieth birthday – and I know personally, because my own seventieth birthday is not far away – is an occasion to ask three questions: where did we come from; how are we doing now; and what will become of us?

To answer the first question, the boldness and vision in opening a new medical university during the dark and chaotic days of 1945 are remarkable. It was a gesture of optimism and hope for the future and recognition of the need of the people of Moldova for their own well-educated doctors, and other health professionals.

How is the University doing now? This speaks for itself; the evidence is here today – graduates from the University practicing medicine, not only in Moldova, but all over the world; the growth of the University and its facilities; the energetic, talented and enthusiastic student body; and the wide international collaborations of the University.

What will become of the University? I would ask the University just to remember this: a university is not buildings; or money; or facilities. It is a community of people; staff and students working together to understand what we know and to gain new knowledge of the world around us; and applying that knowledge for the benefit of our patients and the community in which we serve.

I have a fourth comment, and this is addressed to the representatives of the government of the Republic of Moldova. Your Medical University is a fine example of the strength of this beautiful country. It shows the vigor of academic life in Moldova. Its students and graduates are excellent examples of the high ability and commitment of your young people. The University is a strong ambassador for Moldova. Please, look after it well!

I would like to return to something I mentioned at the start of my talk.

We all know the University is strong, and will continue to thrive. A truly outstanding reason for this success is the exceptional leadership, over many years, of the rector.

I am sorry I cannot say this in Romanian, but – Ivan Ivanovich, spasibo! [Thank you!].