

## Republic of Moldova

On 27<sup>th</sup> of April, *Nicolae Testemitanu* State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (SUMPh) of the Republic of Moldova, launched the **National Research Platform "COVID-19"** in order "to research the complexity of the current situation linked with the spreading of the virus and to advise the policy makers on measures, strategies and interventions that will allow the country to tackle the consequences of the pandemic with minimal losses" (Acad. Prof. Groppa Stanislav, Vice-Rector on Research Activity of *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh).

Shortly after, during the online scientific symposium organized by the Academy of Sciences of Moldova in partnership with *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, entitled "*COVID-19 pandemic: Medical scientific support or what we need to know about SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus and pandemic*", a call to researchers from other scientific fields was launched, in order to join forces and to work within interdisciplinary teams. As a result, around **50** project proposals, covering different aspects and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were submitted to be part of the afore-mentioned research platform.

In parallel, it should be mentioned that SUMPh's teaching and scientific staff are actively involved in the work of the National Emergency Commission of Public Health, where the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, evolution trends and corresponding decisions are daily examined. University departments and chairs are involved in all stages of diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 patients, including those in serious conditions, who are transferred, in majority of cases, to the University clinics. Students and medical residents are volunteering within hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

Taking full advantage of Moldova's membership to ICGEB, the Science Department of the *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh organized, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a videoconference with the participation of Dr. Alessandro Marcello, Group Leader of the ICGEB Molecular Virology Laboratory, which served as a good occasion for exchanging views on SARS-CoV-2 virus evolution (<https://usmf.md/ro/noutati/covid-19-subiectul-teleconferintei-cu-participarea-unui-expert-virusologie-din-italia>). On Moldovan side, the event was attended by 30 researchers representing different departments and research units.

At the national level, the Ministry of education, culture and research of the Republic of Moldova, together with the National Agency for Research and Development, launched a special call for scientific solutions that will tackle the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic (deadline for application – 22<sup>nd</sup> of May).