

## Geriatrics in Lithuania

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Gerontology and geriatrics began to develop in Lithuania when dr. Antanas Jurgelionis founded Society of Gerontology in 1960. Society organized yearly conferences on gerontology and geriatrics. In modern times, in 1995 Geriatric Clinic was founded in Kaunas University of Medicine.

From the post-Soviet countries, Lithuania was the first to organize geriatric studies to a full extent. Global Survey on Geriatrics in the Medical Curriculum, a collaborative study of WHO, and the International Federation of Medical Students' Organizations, which collected data from 268 universities in 64 countries from all over the world, described Lithuania as an "old population ... strong in geriatrics education" in 2002.

Residency programme in geriatrics began in 2000. Now there are 28 geriatricians in Lithuania. Geriatricians work in nursing homes and departments, internal medicine wards, out-patient departments, universities, research labs.

Development of geriatrics in Lithuania had these steps:

- **Medical norm** MN 71:1999 „Doctor geriatrician. Rights, duties, competence and responsibilities“.
- Introduction of Courses on gerontology and geriatrics in medical curricula, **residency in gerontology and geriatrics**, training programmes for **geriatric nursies**.
- Nomination of Code of geriatric service – 1588.
- Program of development of geriatric care system in Lithuania 2003-2007 by Ministry of Health.
- “National strategy of overcoming the consequences of population ageing” by Lithuanian government (2004).
- **Medical norm** MN 71:2006 „Doctor geriatrician. Rights, duties, competence and responsibilities“.

According to Lithuanian model, the geriatric care will be concentrated in large health care centers in all five regions of Lithuania, where geriatric wards, day care units and consultants in out-patient departments will work together with an interdisciplinary team with the aim of comprehensive geriatric assessment and treatment. Geriatric wards in the hospitals should become a reality in the process of the reorganization of an excessive number of internal medicine beds.