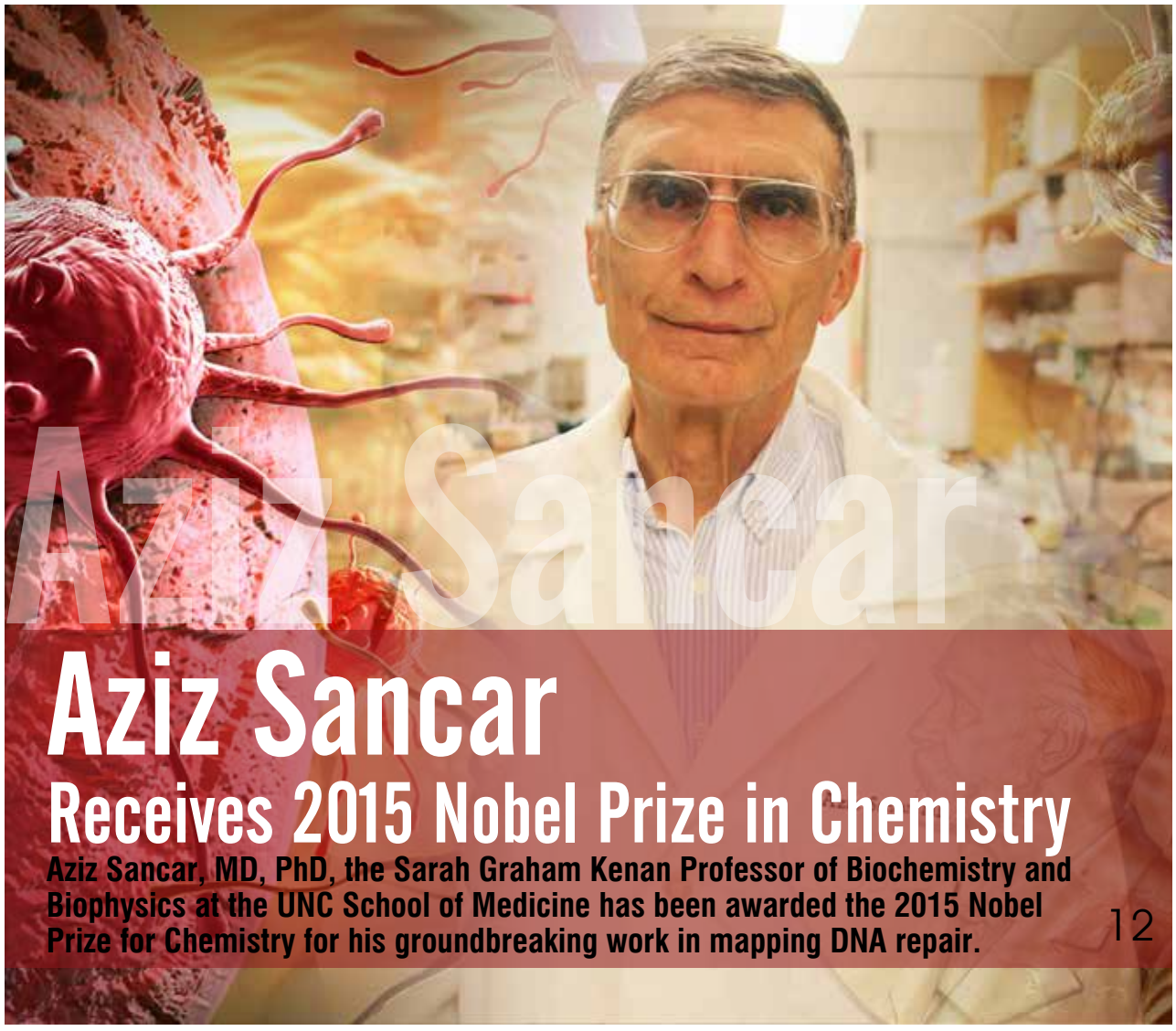
LabMedya

Laboratory Magazine

ISSN: 2148-953X

Special Edition



Aziz Sancar

Receives 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Aziz Sancar, MD, PhD, the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the UNC School of Medicine has been awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his groundbreaking work in mapping DNA repair.

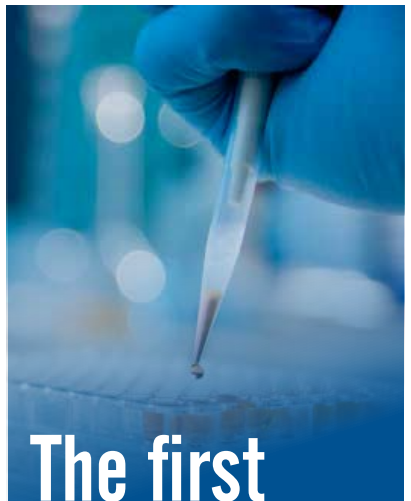
12

Turkey's new logo introduced at ceremony

14

Turkey

Discover the potential



The first stem cell was produced in Stem Cell Laboratory

The first stem cell was produced by studies in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Experimental Researches Application and Research Centre (ÇOMÜDAM).

17

Turkey's First Biomedicine and Genome Center is Opened

15

Labsiad

LABORATORY PRODUCTS MANUFACTURERS AND BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION OF TURKEY

The first and only laboratory products association of Turkey

8

Giant laboratory for local medicine

6

Turkey has signed an agreement with the largest particle physics laboratory

18

The first verification laboratory of Turkey has been founded

16

Why Labmedya Magazine ?

We would like to summarize to you the first and only publication in your sector.
LabMedya, as can be understood from its name, is a publication which has been serving as a media channel in laboratory sector for approximately 5 years and which is followed with a huge interest and curiosity. It has become a publication each issue of which is looked forward to as its contents cover completely independent, free and sectoral issues. It is published between 10.000 and 13.000 issues every two months in glossy and each page being colored. Our publication is mailed to the name of the person directly by mail as a free of charges.
In addition, our publication can be read online and interactively through our web page and mobile application. Also soft copies are sent via e-mail to approximately 30.000 people in the sector which are in our mail bank.
To sum up, the number of people which we reach is over 40.000 in total.
LabMedya, which is also popular in social media is followed more and more every day. In our Facebook page, current news about sector, science, health and technology are posted nearly every day and attract huge attention.
Our vision is to become a publication which will attract attention of people, which will be read and each issue of which will be looked forward to in all terms.
In this context, our content and design are prepared in a way to attract people's attention and not to bore people. Our aim is to reach every laboratory and everybody related with laboratory sector in Turkey and Turkish Republics.

Labmedya, participate in many exhibitions at home and abroad, and is followed.

Inserts, Printing and Distribution

Up the 4 pages of insert, in size of 19x27 cm which is special to our company are published and distributed together with LabMedya magazine with very convenient costs so your brochure will be reached up to 10.000 people.
You can see some sample inserts below.

Online Medya

LabMedya is sent to approximately 30.000 people in the format you see at the side via e-mail in addition to hard copies. The person receiving the e-mail can click, open and read LabMedya in PDF. Some of our readers especially request only e-mails. Thus they can read LabMedya via computer. Through this post, logos of advertising companies are presented for free. While making this post, you can advertise in marked area at the side. the advertisements you make in this area are added for free in the areas of occasion products in our web site and the person can see your product on our web site.

E-Marketing

LabMedya sends mails on behalf of you. Whatever you wish, such as your own advertisement performance, design, product presentation etc are sent to our own data with your name and mail address. thus, the person receiving the mail assumes that the mail comes directly from you. When they want to reply, you receive the mail directly in your own inbox.
Posting amount changes depending on the time you require. They are sent approximately to 25.000-30.000 people.
After the post, a posting report like you see at the side is sent to you. In this report, you can see number of posts, number of people opening your mail and click through rate.
If you wish, the data you created are added on our post list and sent. No charge is required for the data you add up to 5.000.
As our posting system works in sense of counters, a moderate fee is demanded for additions over 5.000.

Mobile Application

As LabMedya, we have made our way into Mobile Application and Tablet Publication by following the developing technologies. In tablets or smart phones, LabMedya can be read more interactively and in a more detailed way. Also we make your advertisement or product presentation to users downloading the application through push notifications which means instant messages.
Through your mobile application, you can promote your special activities, special product groups, campaigns, news etc to users via push notifications.
Also you can attach video or link to your hard copy advertisement in the application. For example, the user examining your advertisement can see the product presentation video. you can make them order or examine the product in a more detailed way by directing them to your web site.

Web portal

LabMedya web site appears at the top in many searches with its satisfactory content. Thus, it has a good hit rate.
Also, as all issues of LabMedya are loaded in our web site, our users can download and read old issues from our web site.
There are 3 different advertisement areas in our web site. You can give your advertisement in areas marked with yellow below:

Officially The Republic of Turkey; Türkiye, Turkie

Ankara is the capital of Turkey.
Republic of Turkey 's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk The Republic of Turkey Language is Turkish.
Turkey is a contiguous transcontinental country, Asia with Europe.
Turkish is a Turkic language spoken in Turkey, with about 75 million people.
Turkey has eight neighboring countries. Turkey is bordered by eight countries: Bulgaria to the northwest; Greece to the west; Georgia to the northeast; Armenia, Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the east; and Iraq and Syria to the southeast.
Turkey's nickname is the land of four seasons. From the temperate climate of the Black Turkey's weather systems are geographically diverse.
The coastal areas bordering the Black Sea have a temperate Ocean climate.
The coastal areas of Turkey bordering the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea have a temperate Mediterranean climate.
The coastal areas bordering the Sea of Marmara, which connects the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea.
These areas have a steppe climate with hot, dry summers, cold winters in Central Turkey.
Turkey has seven regions.
Turkey is divided into seven census regions: Marmara, Aegean, Black Sea, Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia and the Mediterranean.
Turkey's population was 74,7 million people in 2012.

Istanbul's Maltepe University students blend art with medicine to treat behavioral disorders

A group of medical school students have opened a sculpture exhibition focusing on 'homongolos' or 'Little Man,' which is located in the cortex of the brain and affects both motor functions and emotions

With an increasing number of stories circulating in newspapers regarding acts of violence and homicide, society is being deeply affected. Now, in a course on interdisciplinary art, students from the Maltepe University Faculty of Medicine are focused on discovering the root causes for this disturbing trend and how it is manifesting itself in society.

The students created sculptures which serve as a mirror into their findings, to be displayed from March 1 to April 1 at the Marmara Eğitim Köyü Cultural Center.
To stop the increase of violent acts in Turkey, the students educate their audiences about the meaning of homongolos and how they occupy our brains through the sculptures they produce.

Two assistant professors from the university's Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Fine Arts; Uğur Baran Kasırga and Mehmet Özen, respectively, are offering classes which combine the fields of medicine and art. According to Kasırga and Özen, medical doctors can utilize art as a supportive tool in the medical treatment of patients with chronic behavioral disorders.
Özen said, "We hope that this exhibition will challenge those who live in a state of unconsciousness and try to turn society into a sort of machine to use their minds and start a new trend."

In human psychology, the tendency toward violence is a direct result of the functionality of a part of the human brain known as the homongolos - or "Little Man" - which is located on the cortex of the brain and affects both motor functions and emotion in human beings. The students of the Maltepe University Faculty of Medicine studied the relationship between how these urges are reflected physically and the behaviors that dominate the human mind, causing people to be insensitive and, as a result, this "Little Man." These medical students enter their workshop and create "Homongolos;" delving deeper into studies and observations regarding the social behaviors evident in modern Turkey. The students serve as a warning to people against violence by introducing them to the phenomenon of the "Little Man," while raising awareness of the problem in society. To stop the increase of violent acts in Turkey, students educate their audience about the meaning of Homongolos and how they occupy our brains through the artistic sculptures they produce. Young medical doctors who have conducted research on the causes of these violent acts in society want to show members of society that the concept of violence is "just in our heads;" emphasizing instead the therapeutic effect of art on the human brain.

Traditional cancer treatment methods not 'ideal,' Turkish medics say

Traditional cancer treatment methods like chemotherapy and radiotherapy are not ideal anymore, a Turkish medical oncology specialist has said ahead of World Cancer Day on Feb. 4, underscoring that new ways are being developed to prevent the growth of cancer cells by exploring the "cancer maps" in human genes.

"Older treatments like chemotherapy and radiotherapy are not ideal or 'smart' any more, as these methods also kill healthy cells," Istanbul-based medical oncology and internal medicine Prof. Canfeza Sezgin told the state-run Anadolu Agency in an interview, adding "new ways are being developed to prevent the growth of cancer cells by exploring the human genetic cancer maps."

Sezgin said "smart medicines" have been used in the last four-to-five years in Turkey and could be used alone or with chemotherapy.

"We are doing genetic tests on patients to determine their cancer's characteristics and looking at whether it is suitable for smart medicines. If it is, their life expectancy [can be] doubled," Sezgin said.

"This has led to improved molecular drugs - so-called smart medicines. In our country, smart medicines have been used for between four-to-five years," he added.

According to Sezgin, these smart medicines directly target cancer cells, killing and preventing growth, potentially increasing the average lifetime of patients by about 30-40 percent from initial diagnosis.

According to a 2012 Health Ministry report, every year about 105,000 men and 71,000 women are diagnosed with various cancers in Turkey.
Although cancer continues to claim many lives and devastate families across the country, new treatment methods and medicines are being found to send cancers into remission, or at least extend the lifespans of cancer sufferers.

Men experience lung and prostate cancer as the leading causes of death from the disease. Among women, breast cancer is the most common fatal cancer, according to the latest data from the Health Ministry.

The struggle against this illness is, for many people, a battle to maintain hope in the fact of a chilling diagnosis.

According to the Health Ministry, one male cancer patient out of five suffers from lung cancer. Overall, Turkey largely fits in with the global experience of cancer.

As in Turkey, the most commonly diagnosed cancers worldwide were those of the lung (1.8 million, 13 percent of total diagnoses), breast (1.7 million, 11.9 percent) and colorectal (1.4 million, 9.7 percent), according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) online database, GLOBOCAN 2012.
GLOBOCAN 2012 revealed that the most common causes of cancer death were those of the lung (1.6 million, 19.4 percent of the total), liver (0.8 million, 9.1 percent) and stomach (0.7 million, 8.8 percent). Prostate cancer is also common in Turkey.

"A prostate cancer patient can be treated with sound waves without any pain and bleeding. They can then return to their normal life," Turkish urology doctor Hüseyin Lüleci said, adding that people could undergo a high-frequency sound waves procedure which targets tumors directly.

Lüleci said patients were often unaware of the disease because prostate cancer has relatively few symptoms but a minute-long examination could detect the illness easily.

"People should have a check-up between 45-50 years of age if there is prostate cancer in their families," he added.
According to Health Ministry statistics, a total of 17,630 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2012 and one out of four female cancer patients suffer from the disease in Turkey.

According to the American Cancer Society's website, new treatments which could catch breast cancer early are being studied and tested by scientists.

"Some drugs help to destroy tumors in 50-60 percent of patients who have locally advanced breast cancer," Breast Health Society Founder doctor Vahit Özmen said.

Molecular breast imaging – also known as scintimammography – sees a radioactive tracer injected into a vein.

This then attaches itself to breast cancer cells and can be detected with a special camera. However, this method is still being studied to see if it will be useful in locating breast cancers.
Under the description "targeted therapies," one group of drugs also takes advantage of gene changes in cells which can cause cancer.

Some drugs currently in use target HER2, a gene which can play a role in the development of breast cancer.
About the causes of the disease, Ozmen said hormones seem to play a major role in breast cancer. A bad diet - especially eating red meat, animal fat and drinking alcohol - is also a risk factor in developing the illness, he added.

Projections based on the GLOBOCAN 2012 estimates a substantive increase to 19.3 million new cancer cases per year by 2025, due to an increased global population which is living longer on average.
More than half of all cancers (56.8%) and cancer deaths (64.9%) in 2012 occurred in less-developed regions of the world, and these proportions could increase further by 2025, GLOBOCAN 2012 data suggested.

Giant laboratory for local medicine

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Öztürk, Director of Dokuz Eylul University (DEÜ) İzmir Biomedicine and Genom Centre (İBG-İzmir), made a statement to AA (Anatolian Agency) reporter and stated that they aimed to carry out innovative studes in the centre which would combine molecular biology, genetic and medical sciences and would make a breakthrough.

He added that with molecular biology, very important applications were started in medicine; in both diagnosis and treatment areas. He underlined that biotechnological medicines which were produced by molecular biology technologies compose 20% of world's medicine market.

Öztürk stressed that one of their main targets was to produce medicines which were not produced in Turkey and to develop new medicines.

"A first in Turkey"

"For the first time in Turkey, a research centre with a huge capacity is being founded by spending 150 million Turkish Liras. Total area of laboratories in the centre is more than two football pitches. Normally, research centres in Turkey has 500 square meters area, but here we talk about an area of 20 thousand square meters."

Öztürk stated that service units were founded in the centre to be used by researhcers from both state and private sector in Turkey and added that: "I think this will be the first multidisciplinary centre in Turkey. Here molecular biologists, doctors, pharmacists, engineers and people from very different occupations will come together and work to solve a problem using their information and abilities.

Now in modern medicine, it is not enough to have a single discipline; coming together of specialists from different areas creates an unbelievable synergy.

People having different speciality areas will carry out projects which cannot be realized or will take years to be realized instead."

Öztürk told that studies on cell treatments had began one year ago in the Centre and it was being planned to start studies on biotechnological medicines in one or two months, and added that there was no other centre in this size in the large area between the east of Vienna and India.

Smokers in Turkey to not receive free cancer medicine

Turkey's social security body will not fund cancer treatment medicines for patients diagnosed with lung cancer who have ever had a smoking habit, according to a new regulation that went into effect on Feb. 3.

The Social Security Institution's (SGK) new regulation requires people with lung cancer to pay for their own treatment medicines if they have a smoking habit.

The regulation has drawn condemnation from legal bodies, health organizations and advocacy groups.
Ankara Bar Association head Hakan Canduran stated that they would take the regulation, which he said violates constitutionally and internationally-protected health rights, to court.

"The term 'everyone' is used in Article 56 of our constitution. This assures everyone the right to health. This term should be regarded by law in terms of non-discrimination and equality," Canduran said.

"Smoking cigarettes, which is a personal preference, is being punished by the state [with the regulation]," he added.

The Turkish Medical Association (TTB) said it could take the issue to the Constitutional Court through an individual appeal.

Devrim Güngör, an associate law professor at Ankara University, also criticized the change.

"One-sided and arbitrary changes in the provisions of general health insurance are unlawful. A person cannot just be left to die based on their mistakes or personal preferences. Many diseases are caused by unhealthy lifestyles. For example, this regulation could lead to hospitals asking for patients to meet weight criteria in order to fund medicines for cardiovascular disease patients," Güngör said.

Turkish Employer Pharmacists Union (TEİS) head Nurten Saydan said the new regulation was "unacceptable."

"For example, for someone who is diagnosed with lung cancer on Feb. 3, their treatment will be funded only if they haven't smoked before. This is unacceptable," Saydan said.

"Several life-sustaining medicines that also cure other diseases are not included in the new SGK prospectus. The SGK funds these medicines only with the authorization of the Health Ministry. Until now, this system functioned successfully, but now the SGK is imposing tighter rules on the system by not accepting the ministry's allowances," she added, suggesting that the reason for the regulation change was the SGK trying to cut costs.

"This regulation, which threatens the health of patients, should be amended urgently by the SGK and the Health Ministry," Saydan said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is well-known for his anti-smoking stance. Commenting on the recent extension of smoking bans in public spaces, he told a group of around 250 former smokers that there could be "no freedom to commit suicide, no freedom to expose oneself to terminal diseases."

"There can be no such freedom as the freedom to smoke … The state must protect its citizens against tobacco, alcohol and drugs, just as it is obliged to protect them against crimes like theft and terrorism," Erdoğan said.

Labsiad

LABORATORY PRODUCTS MANUFACTURERS AND BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION OF TURKEY

The first and only laboratory products association of Turkey

As the first Laboratory Products Manufacturer and Businessmen Association of Turkey, we were founded with missions of creating strength from togetherness, pursuing innovation, making contribution to the sector, providing solutions for problems and new projects by evaluating global dynamics and local socio-economic conditions.

Our Association LABSIAD was founded on the principle of voluntariness to solve legal, financial and social problems of laboratory device producers, sellers and association members who make publications, R&D and calibrations in the public and private sector.
Today, innovation, advanced technology and sustainability are three integrated concepts which cannot be separated from each other. Institutions have to pursue these concepts to be successful and to protect their success in the trade area. We have to act in guidance of these three concepts in order to create difference in our sectors.

In the contemporary world, where technologies entered and engrossed our life rapidly, our necessity to harmonise with the conditions has also changed. We aim to catch the speed of this new world, and to behave according to changing demands and expectations. We have to develop new ideas and products that will enrich our lives, solve our problems in current business models, evaluate proposed social and economic data in the long term, transform created ideas and solutions and take all necessary precautions.
We combined all our strength in this way and we continue to advance towards our target according to our missions.
Our most important target is to transform our Laboratory Products Manufacturer and Businessmen Association of Turkey, founded on voluntariness principle and reached today with the valuable support and devoted studies of all our members, to a Non-governmental Association that supports our country in reaching the cutting edge technologies in Science, R&D, Industrial production and related quality control processes, in the new era of our country where especially long term investments increase in the industrial area.

Turkey not at risk for Zika, infectious disease expert says

The Zika virus does not pose a serious threat for Turkey due to geographical distance, says the head of the Turkish Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (KLIMIK), Professor Önder Ergönül, while warning that international travel to regions of outbreak risk pregnant women's lives.

Maria de Lourdes, who is nine months pregnant, poses for a picture at the IMIP hospital in Recife, Brazil, January 28, 2016. REUTERS Photo

According to Professor Ergönül, who is also the chair of the American Hospital's infectious diseases department, the rare presence of Aedes mosquitoes in Turkey has eased concerns amongst medical experts in Turkey.

Aedes mosquitoes cause widespread outbreaks of Zika, a virus thought to have links with birth defects among thousands of newborns particularly in the Americas. These mosquitoes mostly live in tropical and subtropical climates.

Ergönül told DHA in an exclusive interview that Turkish citizens could be infected just like other European travelers who have caught the disease during their visits to critical zones. "The world is smaller now; travelling is easier," he added.

Following fear in South and Central America, people who have travelled to these regions from Denmark, the U.K. and Switzerland have recently caught the virus, increasing global alarm signals.

'Death toll nearly zero'

According to research carried out in Brazil, "The risk of microcephaly, which causes babies to be born with heads that appear shrunken, is 20 times higher for pregnant women who have been infected [with the Zika virus], compared to women who have not," Ergönül said.

However, Ergönül added, "The death toll of the virus is nearly zero and the indicated deaths in [medical] literature are known to have links with other health problems."

'Flu-like symptoms should be examined'

The virus' threat to babies' brain development has particularly "touched" people, said the professor. But in fact, there are many other viruses spreading in similar conditions, he added.

These viruses include Dengue Fever, Chikungunya Fever, the West Nile virus, which is found in temperate and tropical regions of the world, as well as Sandfly Fever, which was also spotted in Turkey.

According to Ergönül, Zika attracted attention "[because of] its ability to rapidly spread."

However, this virus "cannot spread person to person" without the involvement of Aedes mosquitos, according to Ergönül. No matter, flu-like symptoms should be taken into account, as those infected show basic flu symptoms and it is a "disease with a good prognosis," he said.

The virus can only spread person to person "if the virus mutates," he said, adding "It has not mutated so far; but the risk continues."

'We will stick to WHO's warnings'

The Zika virus has no special treatment or antiviral medication developed so far. But an early treatment using anti-Influenza medication could ease the symptoms, although this has been limited to a supportive treatment, he added.

"To develop vaccines against these sorts of viruses with good prognoses is mostly considered meaningless. It takes between five and 10 years to develop a vaccine and for a disease that can disappear itself, these efforts could be unnecessary. In this regard, we stick to the warnings of the World Health Organization [WHO]," he said.

Regarding debates on the potential relation between climate change and the outbreak of the Zika virus, Ergönül suggested that a certain link could only be revealed after years of work and monitoring. Thus, a relation cannot be predicted through mathematical modellings, despite the fact that climate change influences the life cycles of arthropods like mosquitos and acarids.

Meanwhile, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said they will convene an International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Feb. 1 about the Zika virus in Geneva, to ascertain whether the outbreak constitutes a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern."

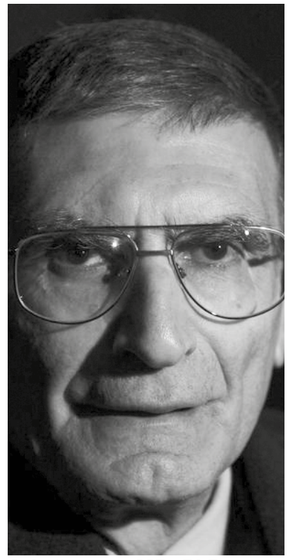
Istanbul's local community center celebrates 10th year with cultural events

A local community center at the heart of Istanbul's Beyoğlu district, Tarlabaşı Community Center (TTM), is set to celebrate its 10th anniversary with year-long events focusing on multiculturalism and peace.

The first of those events is a short film contest under the motto, "There is space here for every one" (Burada Herkese Yer Var) in association with UKA Film.
The last date to apply to the contest is March 11.
TTM Chief Social Service Expert Ceren Suntekin said the idea to run a short film contest came out of a desire to fight all kinds of discrimination and racism while spreading multicultural peace culture.

The award ceremony will be held on April 29 with a jury including prominent directors, actors and film critics.
Meanwhile, Suntekin also added that that the 10th anniversary celebrations would continue with a forum called "Interchildren Child Rights Forum" in May, which will be followed by a street festival in October and a panel gathering different segments of the Tarlabaşı neighborhood at the end of the year.
Founded in 2005, TTM serves to engage locals in city life, offering equal opportunities to all its disenfranchised residents. It also provides support and counselling for more than 13,000 disadvantaged children, youth and women.
"The Association to Support Tarlabaşı Society [TTD], which performs the center's activity, was founded in 2007 as a part of project prepared for Beyoğlu-Tarlabaşı area, which is a host to many different cultures, migration-based adaptation problems, poverty, unemployment and illegal relationships, with a support from the European Commission's The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Micro Project Programme," Suntekin said.
The activities of the center include study time, personal support, literacy support programs as well as rhythm and body percussion, creative drama and alternative art workshops.
For the young, there are also body health and social equality courses along with literacy support, English classes and reproductive health courses for adults. TTM also supports Turkish courses for migrants living in Tarlabaşı region, while also providing psychological and legal support for locals.
It also plans house visits to mothers of children regarding their needs, whether it be education or health-related.
However, the center has struggled with sustainability and finding income sources.
"I have been working since its foundation. I am trying to keep the center alive by continuing its activities and services but trying to find [financial] sources is tiring and corrosive," Suntekin said, adding that the center is run entirely by volunteers.
She added that TTM has created a network with many NGOs over the past 10 years, including the Sabancı Foundation, Swedish Consulate and EMpower Foundation. The center also does joint projects with local NGOs in Istanbul.

Aziz Sancar receives 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry



Aziz Sancar, MD, PhD, the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the UNC School of Medicine has been awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his groundbreaking work in mapping DNA repair.

"My wife picked up the phone and told me the person on the line said this is very important," Sancar said. "So I took the phone and they told me I won the Nobel Prize. I was very surprised. I had been sleeping; this was 5 a.m. So I was pretty incoherent. But I thanked them and said, 'It's an incredible honor.'"

Sancar, who is from Turkey and has been a professor at UNC since 1982, earned the award for his work on mapping the cellular mechanisms that underlie DNA repair, which occurs every single minute of the day in response to damage caused by outside forces, such as ultraviolet radiation and other environmental factors. In particular, Sancar mapped nucleotide excision repair, which is vital to DNA subjected to UV damage. When this repair system is defective, people exposed to sunlight develop skin cancer. Also, Sancar showed that other substances can damage the nucleotide excision repair system. His work provides the crucial basic knowledge necessary to develop better treatments that protect against DNA damage, which can result in cancer.

In addition, Sancar and his colleagues discovered how the common cancer drug cisplatin and others like it damage the DNA of cancer cells. This finding has led to further research to figure out how to better target and kill cancer cells. "This award means a great deal to me and my lab," said Sancar, who is a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. "We've been working hard for many years and I think we've made significant contributions to our field. It's been a great team effort." Sancar's work dates back to 1974, when he was a graduate student at the University of Texas. The most recent work to come out of his lab was accomplished earlier this year when his team created a DNA repair map of the entire human genome. "With this map, we can now say to a fellow scientist, 'tell us the gene you're interested in or any spot on the genome, and we'll tell you how it is repaired,'" Sancar said. "Out of six billion base pairs, pick out a spot and we'll tell you how it is repaired." Sancar shares this award with two others: Tomas Lindahl of the Francis Crick Institute and Clare Hall Laboratory in Great Britain, and Paul Modrich of Duke University School of Medicine and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

William L. Roper, MD, MPH, dean of the UNC School of Medicine, said, "It's a tremendous honor for Dr. Sancar, this recognition of his amazing scientific accomplishment. And it's a special day for us as a university because this is the second Nobel Prize awarded to a faculty member of UNC and the School of Medicine.
In 2007, Oliver Smithies, PhD, Weatherspoon Eminent Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. "It's worthy of note that today we share this with colleagues at Duke," Roper said. "This is a great day for science in the world and science in the Triangle region of North Carolina."

Norman Sharpless, MD, director of UNC Lineberger and Wellcome Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research, added, "This is a well-deserved honor. Aziz has studied the fundamental biochemistry of DNA repair at UNC for over 30 years, and his work has greatly enhanced our understanding of the basic biology of cancer and aging. He is a true basic scientist and has been a wonderful friend, mentor, and colleague to scientists across UNC."

LabMedya No: 1 March 2016
ISSN: 2148-953X

The owner and responsible in-Chief
Süleyman GÜLER

Editor
Taşkın EROĞLU

Graphic Designer
Özlem ALTAN DEMİR

İdare Merkezi
Oğuzlar Mah. 1374 Sok.
No:2/4 Balgat - ANKARA
Tel: 0 312 342 22 45
Fax: 0312 342 22 46

e-posta: bilgi@labmedya.com

Subscriptions
abone@labmedya.com

Publication Type
Local Term

www.prosigma.net - info@prosigma.net

Place of Publication
Başak Matbaacılık ve Tan. Hiz. Ltd. Şti.
Anadolu Bulvarı Meka Plaza No:5/15
Gimat / ANKARA
Tel: 0 312 397 16 17

Date of issue
March 2016 - Ankara

In addition to the Labmedya

WHAT IS LABMEDYA ?
www.labmedya.com/en

Obesity: Breaking the cycle of shame in Turkey

In Turkey, more than 30 percent of all adults over 19 years old are extremely overweight and over 300 million people are obese around the word. Despite the increasing trend, physicians encourage and praise overweight people who make inspiring efforts to get healthier.

"I always felt ashamed whenever I looked in the mirror, but it all started when my 5-year-old daughter joked about my weight and called me fat. For the first time that day, I took a hard look in the mirror and hated what I saw." As a result, Aysel Filiz Güler, a 39-year-old mother, has an inspiring and life-saving weight loss success story that could encourage others to embark on a journey like hers.
Güler is just one of thousands of Turkish people - and millions of people worldwide - who has experienced the physical and emotional consequences of obesity. Having been fed up with being overweight, Güler saw her weight fall from 104 kilograms to 61 kilograms in just 15 months, marking an epic journey for the Istanbul native. Having struggled with her weight since she was 15 years old, Güler said her desire to become a healthy mother became the driving force behind her weight loss. "Children can sometimes be brutally honest. My daughter's frankness made me grow concerned about my own weight," Güler told Anadolu Agency (AA). Güler said she never considered herself obese: "But then, I had to face the ugly truth that adults with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or over are considered obese - and mine was 35."

According to Professor Nazif Bağıaçık, president of the Turkish Association for the Study of Obesity, being overweight is becoming a severe health problem in Turkey as well as across the globe. "Turkey ranks 21st among European countries in terms of the rate of obesity, and is a country where the prevalence of rising obesity rates has increased the most since the beginning of this century," Bağıaçık told AA. He added that the prevalence of obesity is 12 percent to 15 percent in Turkish children between the ages of 7 to 14, 27 percent to 28 percent in adult males and 32 percent to 35 percent in adult females in Turkey. "This is the third-biggest health problem affecting human society around the world," he said.

In Turkey, more than 30 percent of all adults over 19 years old are considered extremely overweight, according to a 2013 study conducted by the Health Ministry. A total of 35 percent of Turkish adults fell into the overweight category while 33 percent of them were classified as "normal" and 2 percent as "slim," according to BMI classifications. Also, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which has recognized obesity as a disease since 1997, more than 1.1 billion adults are currently overweight and over 300 million are obese.
A sedentary lifestyle and consuming fast food are the two most common causes of obesity, experts say. Güler said she spends her days behind a desk as an accountant: "Actually, I previously made many attempts to alter my appearance. I thought exercise would solve the problem," she said. "I enrolled in a gym, and kept going for three or four weeks but then I would quit. I had even considered having gastric bypass surgery in 2011 because I could not stop eating junk food or pastries."
However, a recent United Kingdom study conducted in 2015 revealed that, while exercise is helpful, alone it is not enough to lose weight. Physical activity is useful in diminishing the risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and other illnesses, but it does not promote weight loss alone, the study claimed. "I had to recognize that limiting foods that are high in fat and sugar along with regular physical activity is the key to long-term weight loss," Güler said.
Professor Emin Ersoy, president of the Turkish Association of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgery in Istanbul, said sugars and fast food are the most deadly factors that lead to obesity and a range of health problems, including different types of cancer, diabetes and heart diseases.
According to the Health Ministry, fast food is becoming the most preferred dietary lifestyle among people in Turkey, especially among children and adolescents. Fast food is a type of "inadequate and imbalanced nutrition that is high in caffeine, unsaturated fats and sodium while low in fiber, Vitamins A and C and calcium," the ministry reported.
In addition, traditional Turkish foods are high in calories - namely, "simit" (Turkish bagel) and bread, which is consumed daily with every meal. The ministry stressed that 44 percent of the daily calorie intake of people in Turkey is derived from bread alone.
Güler said during her weight-loss journey, her dietitian suggested that she change her nutritional habits and adopt a more vegetarian diet or vegetable-rich diet to lower the risk of obesity. "In 15 months, I consumed milk, yogurt, meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, and exercised regularly. I also tried to avoid salty or sugary treats. I stopped buying junk food because I knew that if it was in my kitchen, I would eat it."A 2014 study of around 2,900 British adults conducted over four years revealed that people who are exposed to "weight discrimination" are more likely to gain weight than those who are not. Thus, Bağıaçık said the fight against obesity should be continuous and resolute: "The public, school officials and family members must be warned by the press and on television," he added.
The government has also initiated programs to address the increasing obesity rates. In 2012, the Health Ministry launched health and dietary plans as well as television and newspaper advertisements aimed at fighting obesity. The ministry also distributed pedometers through family doctors encouraging people to walk regularly and record how far they walk.

Turkey's new logo introduced at ceremony

Turkey
Discover the potential

A new logo, "Turkey; discover the potential" that will replace the old "Made in Turkey" symbol on exported Turkish goods was introduced at a ceremony attended at the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM) in İstanbul on Sunday. The logo was jointly prepared by TİM and the Economy Ministry.

Speaking at the ceremony, Erdoğan said it was a good choice to use the "discover the potential" phrase with the logo but it is better to use the word's Turkish counterpart in the translation.

"To be frank, I think it would be more appropriate to use in the translation of the Turkish word "güç" (strength) instead of the word potential," Erdoğan said. He introduced the logo after his speech.

The president said the logo of Turkey is as important as the symbol of the Turkish lira. He said people in any part of the world will know that a product having this logo was produced in Turkey.

Turkey's First Biomedicine and Genome Center is Opened

Turkey's first Biomedicine and Genome Center is officially opened in İzmir on 9-11 September 2015.

Dokuz Eylul University Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center (iBG-izmir) started to be established with the name "International Biomedicine and Genome Center-Izmir (iBG-izmir) Project" within ¨Bio-Izmir¨ Science and Technology Park, which is the result of the innovative partnership of Dokuz Eylul University Health Campus, Faculty of Medicine & University Hospital, and the Health Technology Park (DEPARK).
The project was created as an innovative translational research center in 2003.

It was first funded by the revolving funds of Dokuz Eylul University and after the concept of a translational research center was presented to the Turkish State Planning Organization, it was officially agreed to be provided approximately with $58 million to complete a national biomedical research center on the health campus.
In September 2014, to become an international research center of excellence whose mission is to discover and advance knowledge for the benefit of society, public health, and economic prosperity, the project was approved and announced in the Official Gazette as Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center (iBG-izmir).

In the meantime, Dokuz Eylül University Senate approved the establishment of an institute (Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Institute) within the structure of the center and applied to the Council of Higher Education (YOK).

iBG-izmir will be the first regional hub, located in Izmir, Turkey's third largest city and a critical locomotive for the growing Turkish economy, particularly within the health sector. This comprehensive regional hub will be multidisciplinary in approach and shall bring molecular biology, genetics, medicine, pharmaceutical sciences, bioengineering, computer engineering, and many other fields together.

The first verification laboratory of Turkey has been founded

Evidence-based Determination, Scanning and Consultance Center for Toxic and Addictive Materials-BATAMER will fill a very important gap in this area. With BATAMER, synthetic materials, which cannot be found in classical laboratory results, will be determined. The project is carried out with support of İstanbul Development Agency (İSTKA). The project will help to create added value with technology transfer in toxic materials and drug addiction area, and İstanbul will be a global centre in this field.

Synthetic material scanning, determination and measurements could be done in Forensic Science laboratories in İstanbul and Ankara only in forensic cases beforehand. From now on, these operations will be done in BATAMER with the cutting edge technology. Analyses carried out in these laboratories will not only determine synthetic materials used by individuals but also the amount of them.

Information on studies in scope of the project was given in the meeting held at Çarşı Campus of Üsküdar University. Project manager İsmail Eygören stated that results taken in scope of the one year project would add much to studies for struggling addiction and added that Üsküdar University had developed a model in this scope.

The Project which enlightens the future of Turkey

Üsküdar University Rector Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan claimed that the project made important contributions in three areas. He said "We developed a method in the technological area. In scope of Innovative İstanbul Financial Support Program, this project will be a sample for all Turkey. Synthetic material use could not be measured in classical laboratories. Foundation of a verification laboratory answered an important need in this area.

We produced a model to fill this gap. Many AMATEM (Alcohol and Substance Addiction Treatment Centre) departments were sending their analysis and examinations abroad for verification. Now we are carrying out these analyses and this will have an added value on this context. The second important gain is in the employment area. Our young people taking education in chemistry and biology areas will have the chance to make researches and use devices in this laboratory. The third gain is our study in social responsibility area. We gave trainings to young people and their families on drug addiction in scope of the project and we carried out some consciousness raising activities. This project became one which enlightens the future of Turkey."

The largest dental prosthesis laboratory of Europe and Middle East has been opened in İzmir.

The largest dental laboratory of Europe has been opened in Turkey

The laboratory, with 2000 square meters of total area, belongs to the firm 'By Dental Karabulut', owned by Hafız Karabulut, the Chairman of İzmir Dental Technicians Chamber.

Hafız Karabulut, the Chairman of Dental Technicians Chamber stated that "Turkey's market share in European dental prosthesis sector is 0.3%. However, in spite of the fact that our technology is newer than theirs, India and China's market shares are about 0.5% in this sector. On the other hand, dental protheis market share of EU is 17 million Euros and Turkey's share in this sector is 5 million Euros. Numbers indicate that Turkey is not at the deserved position in European dental prosthesis market and important precautions are necessary to develop this sector."

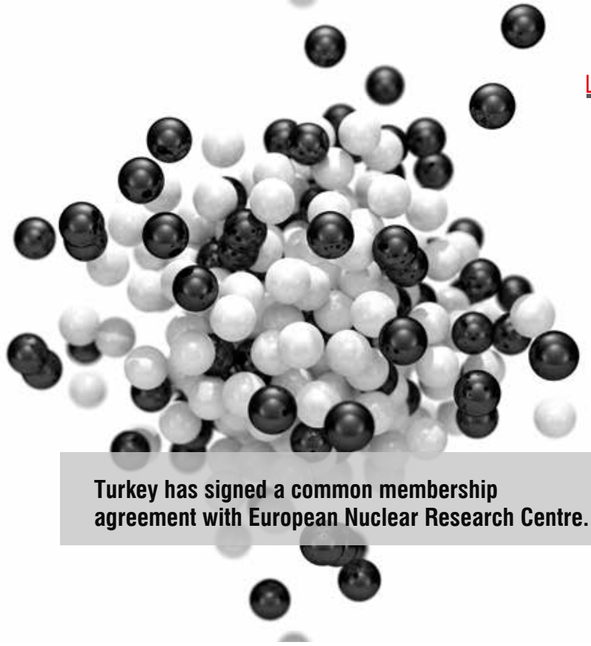
Karabulut defended that with precautions, dental prosthesis market can reach the budget of 500 million Euros and added "To achieve this target, the government should deal with some of our problems and increase incentives for our sector."

The first stem cell was produced in Stem Cell Laboratory

The first stem cell was produced by studies in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Experimental Researches Application and Research Centre (ÇOMÜDAM).

Prof. Dr. Metehan Uzun stated that ÇOMÜDAM was a centre founded to grow laboratory animals and to carry out prospective popular and scientific studies. Prof. Dr. Uzun added on that context, one of the important laboratories was stem cell laboratory and they made an important investment there for projects. The purpose is to end organ transplantations in the future ÇOMÜDAM Vice Director Assist. Prof. Dr. Yavuz Emre Arslan made a statement on the issue and claimed that "By growing bio-artificial organs in laboratory environments, maybe in the future, it will be possible to create organs like kidney and liver. Substructures of these organs are created with three dimensional printers. In cell studies, individual's own stem cell will be differentiated and activated on these materials. As a result, when bio-artificial organs are transplanted to individuals, reactions will be avoided. These studies are carried out in order to end organ transplantations in the future. And we, as ÇOMÜ, continue our studies to examine behaviours of stem cells and at least to develop materials that will be foundation for bio-artificial organs.

Turkey has signed an agreement with the largest particle physics laboratory



Turkey has signed a common membership agreement with European Nuclear Research Centre.

CERN is the abbreviation of the French words 'Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire' meaning European Nuclear Research Centre. This institution is the largest particle physics laboratory of the world, located on the border of Swithzerland and France. Turkey has signed a common membership agreement with European Nuclear Research Centre, which was founded in 1954 with the attendance of 12 countries. Energy and Natural Sources Minister Taner Yıldız attended the agreement ceremony in CERN.

In his speech at signature ceremony, Minister of Energy Taner Yıldız underlined the importance of that day for Turkey and added that it was very exciting to be at CERN with the member title. He stated that cooperation would be strengthened with studies that would be carried out by attandence of Turkish students at secondary and university levels in CERN. Yıldız said he believed that approval process of the agreement would not take much.
After the agreement is signed, it will have to be approved by TBMM (Turkish Grand National Assembly) too. With this agreement, Turkey could take share from institutional tenders corresponding to its financial contribution to CERN, will employ permanent personnel in the institution and Turkish science people will be able to work at CERN as permanent staff.

Turkey has been an observer member in CERN up to now. Mehmet Ferden Çarıkçı, the Permanent Representative of Turkey in United Nations Geneva Office, signed the common membership agreement on behalf of Turkey. A presentation on studies carried out in CERN was done by CERN General Director Rolf Heuer before the ceremony.

Exportation Breakthrough of Turkish Medicine Industry continues!

Turkish medicine industry, exporting to 160 countries including United States of America and members of European Union, declared its 2015 year foreign trade data.

With its deep rooted past, long-standing production culture, structure based on high level of added value and cutting edge technology and experienced human power, medicine industry is one of the leading industries in Turkey. Medicine industry attracted attentions with its exportation acceleration in the last years.
Total exportation of Turkey decreased 8.5% in 2015, but medicine exportation increased 9.8% and reached 939 million USA dolars. Medicine importation decreased 2.6% and realized as 4.6 billion USA dolars. Thus, rate of exports meeting imports reached the highest level in 2010-2015 period and became 20.3%. Medicine industry made a positive contribution to decrease the current deficit.
Turkish medicine industry increased its exportation in 53.4% in the last 5 years and medicine importation decreased in 3.5%. In the same period, total exportaion of Turkey increased 26%. Exportation of medicine industry has grown more than two times of total exportation and common effort of the state and industry had a role in this important performance. Foreign trade deficit in medicine decreased 11.8%. Contribution of medicine industry to Turkish exportation increased from 0.54% to 0,65%. Medicine Industry Employers Union (İEİS) determined exportation and R&D as strategical areas in 2010 and focused on increasing R&D efficiency of industry and to produce products with added value, especially in biotechnology area and to become a global medicine producer and exporter.
In this scope, Turkish Medicine Exporters Platform was founded with attendance of exporter institutions both members and non-members of the Platform. Platform, with its 31 members, carries out studies to introduce the industry in target markets and to rise exportation possibilities.
İEİS General Secretary Turgut Tokgöz made a declaration in the name of Platform and stated that medicine firms continued exportation progress strongly. In his explanation Tokgöz told "With continuation of the strategical support to medicine industry, the industry will become a global power and increase contribution to our country's exportation."

Sixty-year experience

More than 35000 items

World's leading 70 brands are in a single roof

www.prosigma.net

labtech eurasia med
Istanbul, 24-27 March 2016

Biotech Eurasia
Istanbul, 21-23 April 2016

ORLAB®
LABORATORY MARKET

www.orlab.com.tr info@orlab.com.tr
Tel: +90 312 286 40 70 Fax: +90 312 205 50 30

A member of
Labsiad
Turkish Laboratory Products Manufacturers and Businessmen Association