KWIU KEN WALKER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY | ECCES 2026
Excellence in Cross-Cultural Education and Services

Conference Programme

Advancing Medical Education: Internationalization, Innovation, and Academic Success

12–13 October 2026 · Biltmore Hotel Tbilisi · Tbilisi, Georgia

Day 1 — 12 October 2026

WELCOME & OPENING

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
08:30–09:00	Registration **Registration; Preparing exhibitions**	Conference Team	Foyer / Exhibition
09:00–10:30	Official Opening **Official Opening Ceremony**		Biltmore Ballroom

GLOBAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION – STRATEGY, PARTNERSHIPS & LOCAL CONTEXT

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
10:30–10:50	Keynote **Global Health Professions Education, Strategic Academic Development & Partnerships**	**Prof. Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, FAS, FNAMed, FAMedS** President-Elect, World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)	Biltmore Ballroom
10:50–11:10	Keynote **Looking at Educational Partnerships through the One Health and Sustainable Development Goals Lens**	**Prof. Janusz Janczukowicz, MD, PhD** President, AMEE – The International Association for Health Professions Education Ltd Head of the Centre for Medical Education and Vice Dean for the Development of Education; Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Lodz	Biltmore Ballroom
11:10–11:30	Keynote **Globalization versus Diversity: Are They Two Sides of the Coin?**	**Prof. Mary Jo Lechowicz** Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology; Margaret H. Rollins Chair in Cancer, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University	Biltmore Ballroom
11:30–11:50	Invited Plenary Talk **Georgian Perspective on Higher Education**	**Lasha Margishvili** Director, National Center of Education Quality Enhancement, Georgia	Biltmore Ballroom
11:50–12:20	**Coffee & networking**		

QUALITY, EXCELLENCE & ACADEMIC CULTURE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
12:20–12:40	Keynote **Striving for Excellence in Medical Education: Beyond WFME Recognition and Standards**	**Prof. Harm Peters** President, AMSE – Association of Medical Schools of Europe Professor of Medical Education and Medicine; Germany	Biltmore Ballroom
12:40–13:00	Keynote **Does a Curriculum Have a Notochord? The Signals and Forces That Shape a Culture of Learning**	**Prof. Joe Le Doux** Executive Leader for Education Transformation and Innovation, Emory University School of Medicine Dean's Education Innovation Professor, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University	Biltmore Ballroom

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
13:00–13:20	Invited Plenary Talk **Building a Culture of Academic Integrity and Professionalism in Medical Education**	**Prof. Paul Horrocks** Director of Medical Sciences and Director of Educational Partnership Development; School of Medicine, Keele University, United Kingdom	Biltmore Ballroom
13:20–14:20	Panel Discussion **Quality, Excellence & Readiness in Medical Education: Beyond Standards**	**Prof. Emiola Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, FAS, FNAMed, FAMedS** President-Elect, World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) **Prof. Janusz Janczukowicz, MD, PhD** President, AMEE **Prof. Harm Peters** President, AMSE Professor of Medical Education and Medicine; Germany **Lasha Margishvili** Director, National Center of Education Quality Enhancement, Georgia **Prof. Rusudan Rukhadze** Vice Rector, Tbilisi State Medical University **Prof. Irine Pkhakadze** International Expert in Medical Education; Head of the International Medical Program, Akaki Tsereteli State University **Moderator: Salome Voronovi** Head of AMEE Regional Centre of Excellence in Georgia Head of Medical Education, Faculty Development & Strategic Planning Department Tbilisi State Medical University	Biltmore Ballroom
14:20–15:20	**Lunch**		

INTERNATIONALIZATION & INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION – FROM MOBILITY TO MEANINGFUL INTEGRATION

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
15:20–15:50	Invited Plenary Talk **Cultural Contexts of Illness Narratives**	**Dr. Michael McQuaide** Professor Emeritus of Sociology; Oxford College of Emory University	Biltmore Ballroom
15:50–16:10	Invited Talk **Internationalization, Global Mobility & Strategic Partnerships**	**Alejandra Vicencio** Director, International Education Strategy Consultancy; Global Mobility and Partnerships Specialist	Biltmore Ballroom
16:10–16:30	Invited Talk **Training Neurologists Across Cultures: A German Practitioner's Perspective on Intercultural Competence**	**PD, Dr. Tim Patrick Jürgens** Chief Physician, Department of Neurology, KMG Klinikum Güstrow Medical Director, Headache Center North-East, University Medical Center Rostock First Vice President, German Migraine and Headache Society (DMKG), Germany	Biltmore Ballroom
16:30–16:50	**Coffee & networking**		

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
16:50–17:50	Panel Discussion **Internationalization as a Driver of Transformative Medical Education**	**Prof. Mary Jo Lechowicz** Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology; Margaret H. Rollins Chair in Cancer, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University **Dr. Michael McQuaide** Professor Emeritus of Sociology; Oxford College of Emory University **Prof. Joe Le Doux** Executive Leader for Education Transformation and Innovation, Emory University School of Medicine Dean's Education Innovation Professor, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University **Alejandra Vicencio** Director, International Education Strategy Consultancy; Global Mobility and Partnerships Specialist **Prof. Rima Beriashvili** Head of Faculty Development and Strategic Planning Division, Tbilisi State Medical University **Prof. Irma Grdzelidze** International Expert in Higher Education, Vice-rector, Alte University **Dr. Paata Tsagareishvili** Vice Dean in Medical Education, David Tvildiani Medical University **Moderator: Nino Shiukashvili** Head of Quality Assurance Department, Ken Walker International University	Biltmore Ballroom
17:50–18:00	Closing **Day 1 Closing & Day 2 Orientation**		Biltmore Ballroom

PARALLEL OFF-SITE CLINICAL MASTERCLASSES

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
15:30–18:00	Advanced Cardiology Clinical Masterclass **Advanced Heart Failure: From Complex Management to Mechanical Support and Transplantation** **Target audience:** Cardiologists, internal medicine physicians, cardiology residents and fellows, intensive care clinicians, and physicians involved in the management of patients with advanced cardiovascular disease. **Registration required**	**David W. Markham, MD, MSc, FACC** Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology	Chapidze Emergency Cardiology Center
15:30–18:00	Interactive Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Masterclass **Building Safer Systems: Practical Principles of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety** **Target audience:** Clinicians, healthcare leaders, faculty, quality and patient safety professionals, residents, and healthcare professionals involved in improving clinical systems. **Registration required**	**Bhavin Adhyaru, MD, FACP, SFHM** Associate Professor of Medicine, Emory University; Grady Memorial Hospital	Ingorokva and TSMU High Medical Technology University Clinic

Day 2 — 13 October 2026

INNOVATION, READINESS & STUDENT SUCCESS

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
08:30–09:00	Registration **Registration; exhibitions open**	Conference Team	Foyer / Exhibition
09:00–10:00	Oral Presentations **Faculty Scientific & Medical Education Oral Presentations** • Curriculum Design & Teaching Innovation • Communication, Professionalism & Student Support • Global Health, Interprofessional Education & Social Accountability • AI, Simulation & Innovative Learning • Assessment, Competency & Readiness for Practice More information: https://conference.kwiu.edu.ge/oral-presentations	**Room 1 – Moderation: Nino Tevzadze, MD, PhD** Deputy Director of American MD Program, Tbilisi State Medical University **Room 6 – Moderation: Kakha Bregvadze, MD** Co-head of MD Program, Tbilisi Medical Academy **Room 7 – Moderation: Maka Zarnadze, MD, PhD** Head of the Continuing Professional Development Office, Tbilisi Medical Academy **Room 8 – Moderation: Mariam Rodonaia, MD** Specialist of Scientific-Research Center, Faculty of Medicine, Akaki Tsereteli State University **Room – Amphitheatre – Moderation: Iuri Migriauli, MD, PhD** Head of Education Department, David Tvildiani Medical University	Floor 2: Room 1, Room 6, Room 7, Room 8, Room – Amphitheatre
10:00–10:20	Online Keynote **Preparing Graduates for an Uncertain Future: What Does Readiness for Practice Really Mean?**	**Prof. Mairi Scott** Emeritus Professor of Medical Education and General Practice; University of Dundee International Consultant in Medical Education, Quality Assurance and Governance	Biltmore Ballroom – Online
10:20–10:40	Plenary Talk **Advancing Medical Education: The Georgian Perspective**	**Salome Voronovi, MD, PhD, FAMEE** Head of AMEE Regional Centre of Excellence in Georgia Head of Medical Education, Faculty Development & Strategic Planning Department Tbilisi State Medical University	Biltmore Ballroom
10:40–11:00	Plenary Talk **Obstacles to Student Success**	**Gordon Churchward, PhD** Professor Emeritus of Microbiology and Immunology Former Assistant Dean in Medical Education and Students' Affairs; Emory University School of Medicine	Biltmore Ballroom
11:00–11:30	**Coffee & transition to the parallel program**		

INTERACTIVE LEARNING TRACKS – PARALLEL SESSIONS

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
09:00–14:30	Student Hackathon **Student Medical Education Hackathon (Selected Student Teams)** **Registration required** (Students only)	Selected student teams + mentors	Hackathon Zone: Room 3

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
11:30–13:00	Interactive Workshop **The Art of Telling Your Story** **Registration required** (Faculty and students)	**Prof. Joe Le Doux** Executive Leader for Education Transformation and Innovation, Emory University School of Medicine Dean's Education Innovation Professor, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University **Prof. Mary Jo Lechowicz** Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology; Margaret H. Rollins Chair in Cancer, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University	Room 6
11:30–13:30	Interactive Workshop **Structural Dilemmas in Health Systems: Quality, Universal Access and Cost Control** **Registration required** (Faculty and students)	**Dr. Michael McQuaide** Professor of Sociology; Oxford College of Emory University	Room – Amphitheatre
11:30–13:30	Student Interactive Session **Student Support, Belonging & Academic Success** **Registration required** (Students only)	**Michele Rutherford** Medical Student Education Coordinator; Department of Neurology, Emory University School of Medicine	Biltmore Ballroom
11:30–13:30	Interactive Students' Workshop **Academic Integrity, Professionalism & Responsible Use of AI: Becoming a Trustworthy Future Doctor – An Interactive Student Workshop** **Registration required** (Students only)	**Prof. Paul Horrocks** Director of Medical Sciences and Director of Educational Partnership Development; School of Medicine, Keele University, United Kingdom	Room 8
11:30–13:30	Interactive Workshop **Teaching Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM): Integrating Traditional Methods with AI-Enabled Learning** **Registration required** (Faculty only)	**Bhavin Adhyaru, MD, FACP, SFHM** Associate Professor of Medicine; Emory University School of Medicine, Grady Memorial Hospital	Room 7
13:30–14:30	**Lunch**		
13:30–15:40	Poster Exhibition **Poster Exhibition; Student art exhibition**		Poster Exhibition Area
13:30–15:40	Poster Session **Poster Author Session & Judging (during networking)**		Poster Exhibition Area

STUDENT EXPERIENCE, SUPPORT & ACADEMIC SUCCESS

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
14:30–16:30	Interactive Workshop **Narrative Medicine & the Art of the Patient–Doctor Relationship** **Registration required** (Faculty only)	**Raisa Chyorny, MD** Family Medicine Physician/Hospitalist; Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine, University of New Mexico	Room 6
14:30–16:30	Interactive Workshop **Internal Medicine Faculty Development Workshop: Teaching, Assessing and Giving Feedback at the Bedside** **Registration required** (Faculty only)	**Prof. Irma Tchokhonelidze, MD, PhD** Head of Internal Medicine Department Tbilisi State Medical University **IM department team** Tbilisi State Medical University	Room 7
14:30–16:30	Interactive Workshop **Supporting Students, Strengthening Universities** **Registration required** (Faculty only)	**Dr. Nino Chinchaladze** Executive Director, Center for International Education (CIE)	Room 3

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
14:30–16:30	Student Workshop **Student Experience, Wellbeing & Support** **Registration required** (Students only)	Student-led workshop	Room – Amphitheatre
15:30–17:00	Student Workshop **Medical Career and Residency Pathways in Germany** **Attendance without registration**	**PD, Dr. Tim Patrick Jürgens** Chief Physician, Department of Neurology, KMG Klinikum Güstrow Medical Director, Headache Center North-East, University Medical Center Rostock First Vice President, German Migraine and Headache Society (DMKG), Germany **Dr. med. Heike Mach** Chief Physician, Department of Early Neurological Rehabilitation, KMG Clinic Güstrow, Germany **Tornike Tchagalidze, MD** Neurology Resident, Department of Neurology, KMG Clinic Güstrow, Germany	Tbilisi State Medical University, Administrative Building, Floor 1, Auditorium 1
16:30–16:50	Awards **Hackathon, Poster & Student Recognition**		Biltmore Ballroom
16:50–17:10	Closing **ECCES 2026 Conference Closing**		Biltmore Ballroom

PARALLEL OFF-SITE CLINICAL MASTERCLASSES

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER / LEAD	VENUE
15:30–18:00	Clinical Imaging Masterclass **Cardiac MRI in Mitral Regurgitation: From Imaging to Clinical Decision-Making** **Target audience:** Radiologists, cardiologists, cardiology and radiology trainees, and physicians with an interest in cardiovascular imaging. **Registration required**	**Dr. Elliott K. Gozansky** Professor of Radiology; Chief, Cardiopulmonary Imaging, University of Alabama at Birmingham	Ingorokva and TSMU High Medical Technology University Clinic
15:30–18:00	Emergency Medicine Clinical Masterclass **Emergency Medicine: Clinical Decision-Making in High-Stakes Situations** **Target audience:** Emergency physicians, residents, clinicians involved in acute care, medical educators and senior medical students with a particular interest in emergency medicine. **Registration required**	**Bryan F. McNally, MD, MPH** Emory University School of Medicine	Republican Hospital