

Iovel Kutateladze – Ivane Javakhishvili's Close Associate



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Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University has declared 2016 as the Year of Ivane Javakhishvili (1876-1940) due to the fact, that it is the 140th anniversary of the birth of great Georgian scholar and the founder of the Tbilisi State University, Ivane Javakhishvili.

Iovel Kutateladze, my grandfather's brother, established the pharmaceutical education in Georgia on Ivane Javakhishvili's request at the beginning of the 20th century. That is why I decided to introduce my colleagues and the students with that prominent person.

“Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity”.
Hippocrates



Jason and Medea

by John William Waterhouse (1907)

Georgian medicine originated at the crossroads of the East and West and thus integrates the principles of both medical traditions. There are unique materials on Georgian folk medicine, including thousands of recipes and hundreds of active components of herbal, animal, and mineral origin. Even the word medicine is associated with Medea's name. According to a legend, she was Colch King's daughter. She got married to Jason, the leader of the Argonauts and was the founder of Ancient Greek phytotherapy.

Georgian Pharmacology has an ancient tradition in Georgia. It became one of the most important fields of medical sciences in our country. There have been such well-known medicinal books as Tsigni Saakimoi, Samkurnalo Tsigni Karabadini etc., written in the middle ages. There have been famous Georgian healers as well, who have been treating people with their own family medicines, for example Askurava or Turmanidze and their traditional herbal medicinal ointments.



But the foundation for Georgian scientific pharmacy was laid only after opening of the Tbilisi State University. At that time Academician Iovel Kutateladze, already a well-known scientist was invited by Ivane Javakhishvili to be the Head of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology. He came back to Tbilisi from Odessa in 1921. Academician Iovel Kutateladze established the Pharmaceutical Faculty in 1928. In 1930, from the University, Tbilisi State Medical Institute was detached and there was opened the Pharmacochemical Faculty. In 1937 it was transformed into an independent Pharmaceutical Institute.

Academician Iovel Kutateladze was the Head of the Faculty and, later, of the Institute. This way, the pharmaceutical education was established in Georgia. At the same time Academician Iovel Kutateladze together with his group carried out scientific research and achieved important results. Side by side with Academician Iovel Kutateladze there worked the following scientists: Academicians A. Aladashvili and V.Asatiani etc. It is also very important to note Ivane Javakhishvili's efforts, when he headed the terminological investigation in the Institute (1933-1938).

From the establishment of the Institute of Pharmacochemistry, the purposeful investigation of natural resources of Georgia began and the firm foundation of the pharmacochemical field of science was laid. Iovel Kutateladze Institute of Pharmaco-chemistry of the Georgian Academy of Sciences is the leading institution in the field of production of medicinal preparations in Georgia.

The earlier works carried out at the Institute provided the basis for establishment of Tbilisi Chemical-Pharmaceutical Plant and Batumi Caffeine Plant. A new medicinal form – natural juice of raw plants, created, was acknowledged in contemporary phytotherapy worldwide.



Tbilisi State Medical University

IOVEL KUTATELADZE
INSTITUTE of PHARMACOCHEMISTRY

Academician Iovel Kutateladze carried out important investigations on the history of pharmacy; he published several books on chemical, botanic and pharmaceutical terminology with Georgian-Russian-Latin references.

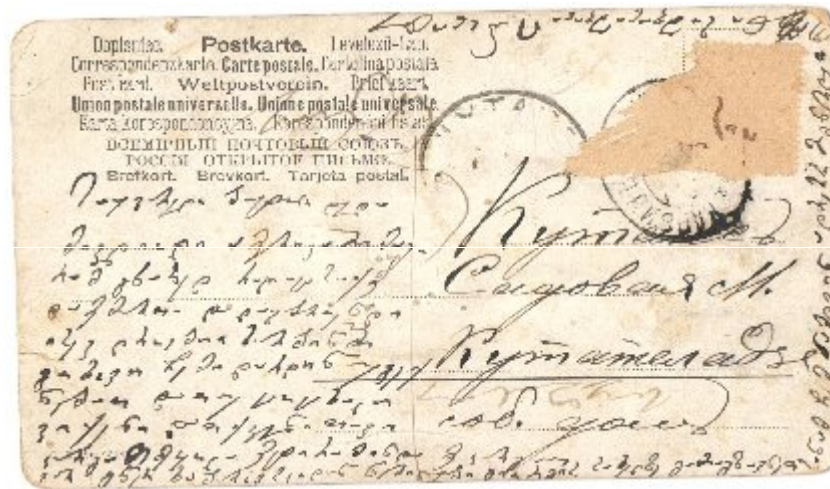
There were launched expeditions which had been undertaken every year since the foundation of the Institute. The flora of Georgia was studied substantially and the plants were registered; a rich herbarium was collected. Thus, a firm foundation for the production of medicinal preparations was laid. The Iovel Kutateladze Institute of Pharmaco-chemistry continues the researches in the field of effective medicinal preparations of natural origin with the aim to restore the pharmaceutical industry, which is traditional and important for our country, basing on national natural resources, available production facilities and scientific potential.

Besides official information, I think, it is noteworthy to mention some of my childhood recollections of Iovel Kutateladze and the family traditions.

My family belonged to the nobles of Georgia. They were well educated, knew some foreign languages and were quite rich. They often went to Germany, France and other countries, to rest and especially to listen to classical music. They wrote letters in French and Russian, besides their native Georgian and they applied to their mother in plural. Very often in their postcards they wrote their address: "Russland, Kутаись".



My grandmother often told me about my great grandmother, Iovel Kutateladze's mother. She was a very strict person. She had four children: three sons and a daughter. My grandfather was a pharmacist and later - a drugstore manager in Tbilisi, his brother Dore was a painter, went to America and never came back, Iovel was a pharmeucist, a scientist and their sister, Barbare, was a dentist.



They lived in Odessa. Iovel Kutateladze was a very talented and a hard-working learner. When he became a lecturer, he was asked to wear beard as he looked very young. Later they came back to Georgia on Ivane Javakhishvili's request. My grandmother told me when I was a child that Iovel's mother was a widow, a very strict lady and the most important thing for her was to live in dignity. A young poor worker fell in love with her daughter and wanted to marry Barbare, but this marriage was inadmissible the family. Tragedy struck the family when that young man shot Barbare and then committed a suicide in the street at the sight of Barbare's family. Some years passed and when she was going to take her grandchildren out somewhere the first thing she did was to feed them well not to be ashamed of their behaviour, and later, when my father was an adult, he could not give up this habit. Iovel Kutateladze had two children: a daughter, Manana, and a son, Giga, who was a very talented and a well-known surgeon. Iovel had three granddaughters and I liked to visit them.



At the birthday party

Standing: Iovel's daughter, Manana, her husband and a guest

Sitting: Iovel's son, Giga, Iovel, his wife, Their granddaughter, Marina, my mother and me.

Iovel Kutateladze was a strict person, like his mother, and he was always busy doing something in his study, where he had a big picture of his mother in a national costume.



Iovel Kutateladze in his study

But his son, Giga, always tried to speak and to play to us. He was a very cheerful person.



My uncle, Giga Kutateladze

Unfortunately, Giga got seriously ill at quite an early age. He had cancer and though many well-known doctors and surgeons, his father's friends, came from the different towns of the former USSR, namely from Leningrad, Moscow etc. to heal him, all was in vain. At the age of 28 Giga died. He was not married and had no children. Iovel Kutateladze and his wife, all the family members and their friends were stricken with grief and it proved to be very difficult for Iovel and his wife to overcome their tragedy.

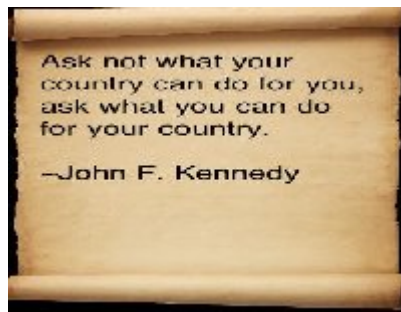


Giga and his mother, Elene

One of the streets in Tbilisi in Vake, near the Round Garden is named after Iovel Kutateladze. He and his family members are interred in Vake cemetery.

“There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something tomorrow”. Orison Swett Marden

I think it is very important for the young students to learn biography details about prominent Georgian scientists and statesmen, for example, like Ivane Javakhishvili, Petre Melikishvili, Iovel Kutateladze, Ekvtime Tayhaishvili and others.



It is very useful as it will give them a very good example of serving native country and we, teachers, should try to give our students a little dose of patriotism on the example of our great ancestors, or in other words, the great patriots of Georgia.

It is well-known, that patriotism is a feeling of love and devotion to one's own homeland (patria, the land of one's fathers). And patriotism helps children feel connected to something bigger and greater than themselves and it is worth the effort. Generally, any selfless act that directly benefits the nation is considered patriotic – and Ivane Javakhishvili's and his outstanding associates' deeds are a good example of selfless serving their country. They were devoted sons of their country in spite of many difficulties and I hope that their patriotic deeds will inspire our students to selfless and devoted serving of Georgia, their native country!

