

EMU DR. FAZIL KÜÇÜK MEDICINE FACULTY ORGANIZES ACADEMIC YEAR OPENING AND WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty, Marmara University (MU) – EMU International Joint Medicine Program’s “2026-2027 Academic Year Opening and White Coat Ceremony” was organized on Monday, 28 September 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Rauf Raif Denktaş Culture and Congress Center.

The ceremony was attended by EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç, EMU Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe, EMU Secretary General Derviş Ekşici, EMU Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty Dean Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Güzoğlu, EMU Faculty of Pharmacy Dean Prof. Dr. H. Ozan Gülcan, EMU Faculty of Dentistry Acting Dean Assoc. Prof. Dr. Işıl Özgül Kalyoncu, vice deans, department heads, academics, students and their families.

The ceremony, which began with a Moment of Silence and the National Anthem, continued with a musical performance by Ada Keskinbakış and



Bahattin Keleş, third-year students of the EMU Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty. Following the performance, Faculty Dean Prof. Dr. Güzoğlu presented flowers to Keskinbakış and Keleş. The university and faculty promotional film was then screened. Delivering the opening speech of the ceremony, Deniz Çangal, Student Representative of the EMU Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty

and a third-year student, welcomed the new students and expressed her pleasure at being together with them. Stating that she represents the Faculty on the Student Council, Çangal touched upon the process of starting at a new school, meeting new people, and adapting to university life.

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EMU FACULTY OF PHARMACY WELCOMES THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WITH A WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Pharmacy organized a White Coat Ceremony on the occasion of 25 September World Pharmacists Day. Marking the beginning of the 2026-2027 Academic Year, the ceremony took place on Friday, 25 September 2026 at 10:00 at the Mustafa Afşin Ersoy Hall.

The ceremony was attended by EMU Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe, EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren, EMU General Secretary Derviş Ekşici, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy Prof. Dr. H. Ozan Gülcan, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry Assoc. Prof. Dr. Işıl Ö Kalyoncu, vice deans of the relevant faculties, academic personnel, students and their families.

Commenced with the observation of a Minute of Silence and National Anthem, the ceremony



continued with a musical performance delivered by Assist. Prof. Dr. Atakan Sarı, an academic staff member of EMU Faculty of Education, Department of Fine Arts Education, Music Teaching Program, and Deniz Özkalay, a master’s student from the same program.

Following the musical performance, Vice Deans of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mehmet İlktaş and Assist. Prof. Dr. Jale Yüzügülen presented certificates of appreciation to Assist. Prof. Dr. Sarı and Özkalay.

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EMU DR. FAZIL KÜÇÜK MEDICINE FACULTY ORGANIZES ACADEMIC YEAR OPENING AND WHITE COAT CEREMONY



“First Steps on a Long Professional Journey”

In her speech, Dean of the EMU Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Güzoğlu greeted the academics, families, and students and welcomed all those attending the ceremony. Stating that the Faculty began offering education in 2012, produced its first graduates in 2018, and has graduated approximately 400 students to date, Prof. Dr. Güzoğlu noted that its graduates proudly represent the Faculty while working in different parts of the world. She emphasized that the Faculty’s accreditations, including TEPDAD accreditation, demonstrate the quality of the education provided. Prof. Dr. Güzoğlu stated that, by putting on their white coats, the students were taking their first steps on a long professional journey, and drew attention to the importance of asking the right questions, maintaining a sense of curiosity, and teamwork. Emphasizing the importance of people with different perspectives being able to work together for the health of the same patient, Prof.

Dr. Güzoğlu advised the students not to hesitate to take responsibility.

“A First in the Field of Joint-Medicine Programs”

In his speech, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç emphasized that the white coat is a symbol of knowledge, effort, responsibility, conscience, and respect for human life. Stating that medical education is a long and challenging journey, Prof. Dr. Kılıç advised the students, “While striving to become good physicians, never forget to first be good human beings,” and noted that being a physician requires not only knowledge of diseases, but also the ability to listen to patients, understand their concerns, and give them hope. Prof. Dr. Kılıç stated that the Marmara University–EMU International Joint Medicine Program achieved a first in the field of joint medical programs by qualifying for accreditation from the Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (TEPDAD) in the 2024–2025 Academic Year,

adding that this achievement demonstrates the quality of education offered by the program. Noting that the students will benefit from the academic expertise of two strong universities, Prof. Dr. Kılıç emphasized that EMU attaches importance to educating physicians who question, conduct research, adhere to ethical values, and contribute to humanity. Following the opening speeches, the White Coat Ceremony was held. During the ceremony, students beginning their medical education put on their white coats.

Opening Lecture Delivered

At the end of the program, the opening lecture of the new academic year, titled “West Nile Virus: A Journey from Mosquito to Brain,” was delivered by Prof. Dr. Hikmet Aysegül Taylan Özkan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Cyprus International University. Afterwards, Prof. Dr. Özkan was presented with a plaque by Prof. Dr. Güzoğlu, Dean of the EMU Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty.



EMU FACULTY OF PHARMACY WELCOMES THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WITH A WHITE COAT CEREMONY



"Our Goal is to Train Future Pharmacists"

Speaking at the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Gülcan expressed his pleasure at celebrating World Pharmacists Day, the beginning of the new academic year, and the Faculty's international accreditation achievement together. Emphasizing the importance of accreditation in evaluating the quality of education against international standards and ensuring its continuous improvement, Prof. Dr. Gülcan thanked the academic and administrative staff, students, and stakeholders who contributed to this achievement.

Stressing that the profession of pharmacy brings science and people together and assumes significant responsibilities in protecting public health, Prof. Dr. Gülcan noted that they prepare their students to think scientifically, question, and make evidence-based decisions. Stating that they aim to educate future pharmacists in line with technological developments in the field of health, Prof. Dr. Gülcan underscored the importance of training healthcare professionals who adhere to ethical values, continue learning, and place people at the center.



"White Coat - The Symbol of Touching Human Life"

EMU Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Karatepe began his speech by celebrating World Pharmacists Day and emphasized that the white coat is a symbol of knowledge, effort, trust, responsibility, and touching human lives. Stating that the profession of pharmacy requires sharing accurate information, guiding patients, and fulfilling professional responsibilities, Prof. Dr. Karatepe encouraged students to remain curious, ask questions, conduct research, and continue learning without compromising their ethical values. Stating that accreditation processes are an important indicator of institutions' commitment to continuously improving the quality of education, Prof. Dr. Karatepe noted that the achievement contributes to EMU's internationalization goals. Congratulating everyone who contributed to the process, Prof. Dr. Karatepe wished the new academic year to bring success to the students and academic and administrative staff.

Following the speeches, a message from Corina Sutter, International Accreditation Officer at the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS), was



screened. On the occasion of the Faculty's MPharm and PharmD undergraduate programs and the PhD Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences being accredited for a period of five years in August 2026 by the Germany-based international accreditation agency AHPGS, the accreditation certificates and plaque were presented to Prof. Dr. Gülcan by Prof. Dr. Karatepe. In addition, a plaque of appreciation was presented to Assist. Prof. Dr. Aybike Yektaoğlu Şahali, Coordinator of the Accreditation Committee, for her contributions to the accreditation process, while certificates of appreciation were presented to the committee members and the academic staff who contributed to the preparation of the accreditation report. Following the presentation of the certificates, first-year students were presented with their white coats. As part of the program, Esra Halkın, a 2017 graduate of the EMU Faculty of Pharmacy and the responsible pharmacist of Halkın Pharmacy in Famagusta, delivered the opening lecture of the new academic year. Following the lecture, Prof. Dr. Gülcan presented Halkın with a certificate of appreciation. The ceremony concluded with a group photo.



CHAMPION ANGELS ASSOCIATION MAKES A SIGNIFICANT DONATION TO EMU ÖZAY ORAL LIBRARY

During a visit to Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç, the Champion Angels Association donated a copy of the book titled *Depremle Unutmadıklarımız: Voleybolun Unutulmaz Evlatları* (Forever Remembered: Volleyball's Beloved Children Lost in the Earthquake) to the EMU Özay Oral Library. The visit, held at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 30 September 2026, was attended by Champion Angels Association Chairperson and EMU academic staff member Ruşen Yücesoylu Karakaya, as well as Association Executive Board Member and EMU Promotion and Marketing Director Murat Aktuğralı. During the visit, the book, which preserves the memories and life stories of the Champion Angels who lost their lives in the earthquake and carries their legacy into the future, was presented to EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç. Prepared by Gülnur Özfer Görgün and published by the Association of Volleyball's Unforgettable Figures, the book documents the stories of those who lost their lives through the accounts, memories and photographs shared by their families and loved ones. Aiming to keep their names and memories alive, the publication also contributes to preserving collective memory and passing it on to future generations.

“We Have Not Forgotten Them, and We Never Will”

Delivering a speech, Champion Angels Association Chairperson Ruşen Y. Karakaya stated, “They were more than volleyball players;



with their dreams, their love and the memories they left behind, they became an unforgettable part of our lives. This encyclopedia was created to preserve the voices that once filled the courts, the dreams they shared and the stories that will remain forever in our hearts, ensuring that their legacy is carried into the future. We have not forgotten them, and we never will. Their names will always be remembered with love, and their memories will continue to live on with pride”.

“Preserving the Memory of Our Champion Angels Is a Shared Responsibility”

EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç emphasized that keeping the memory of the Champion

Angels alive and passing their stories on to future generations is a shared responsibility, and thanked the Champion Angels Association for donating the book to the EMU Özay Oral Library. Prof. Dr. Kılıç stated, “Our Champion Angels will always live on in our hearts through their dreams, achievements and the lasting mark they left on our lives. This valuable publication, which brings their stories together with readers, holds great significance in preserving their memory. As EMU, we will continue to support all efforts aimed at ensuring that our Champion Angels are never forgotten and that their legacy continues to live on.”

EMU FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND ENGLISH PREPARATORY SCHOOL TAKES THE FIRST PLACE IN CAMBRIDGE SUSTAINABLE CLASSROOM CHALLENGE



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Foreign Languages and English Preparatory School (FLEPS) won the Cambridge Sustainable Classroom Challenge with its “Community Service Project”. The achievement brought international recognition to the School’s educational approach, which combines language learning with social responsibility and sustainability awareness.

The Cambridge Sustainable Classroom Challenge encourages language educators to share practices designed to develop students’

sustainability skills through the Cambridge Sustainability Framework for English Language Teaching. The framework, which forms the foundation of the competition, provides educators with guidance on how to foster sustainability awareness and related skills through language learning.

Success through the Community Service Project

As part of the award-winning Community Service Project, students were first introduced to the Sustainable Development Goals and invited to consider the goals and issues most relevant to their own communities. They then researched the challenges they had identified and worked collaboratively to develop possible solutions.

Throughout the project, students actively used English while developing not only their language skills but also their critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, problem-solving, research and communication abilities. The

project concluded with presentations in which students shared the issues they had addressed and the solutions they had developed.

A Sustainability-Focused Education Approach

Commenting on the achievement, EMU FLEPS Director Assist. Prof. Dr. Mutlu Kale stated that the School carries out its activities in line with EMU’s sustainability goals. Noting that the curriculum and teaching methods are continuously developed in this direction, Assist. Prof. Dr. Kale emphasized that, alongside improving students’ language skills, they place great importance on helping students become individuals who are sensitive to global issues and have a strong sense of social responsibility.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Kale added that the international award is a tangible outcome of the shared vision embraced by the team and demonstrates that they are moving in the right direction with their sustainability-focused educational initiatives.

WINNER OF 'GIT' COMPETITION EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO EMU

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) has provided a full tuition fee scholarship to Fevziye Nur Atalay, winner of the Reels Competition organized as part of the “Girls in Information and Technology (GIT) Project” (EMU). Atalay, together with EMU TechGirls Committee members Prof. Dr. Nazife Dimililer, Assist. Prof. Dr. Raziye Nevzat, Dr. Özlem Görkan Evre, Dr. Yeşim Kapsıl Çırak and Senior Instructor Halide Sarıçizmeli, who are among the coordinators of the GIT Project, paid a visit to EMU Vice Rector for Academic Affairs Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe to express their gratitude for the scholarship support.

GIT Project

The GIT Project was carried out between 2021 and 2024 in collaboration with the EMU TechGirls Committee of the Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences and the Famagusta Women's Centre Association (MAKAMER). As part of the project, a Reels competition themed “In Search of Technology Stars” was organized in 2024 for female high school students, with sponsorship from KKTC Telsim Vodafone.

Atalay, who chose to enroll in the English-medium Information Systems and Technologies Department within the Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences with the scholarship she won through the competition, successfully completed her English preparatory education. She will begin her undergraduate studies in the department this semester.

“We Will Continue to Support Female Students in Pursuing Education in Computing and Technology”

Prof. Dr. Karatepe stated that initiatives promoting equal opportunities in education constitute an important part of EMU's social responsibility. Emphasizing the importance of encouraging female students to pursue education in computing and technology for the future of society, Prof. Dr. Karatepe noted that the University places great value on projects carried out through cooperation among universities, civil society organizations and the private sector.



Congratulating Atalay and wishing her success in her academic life, Prof. Dr. Karatepe thanked the EMU TechGirls Committee, MAKAMER, main sponsor KKTC Telsim Vodafone, and Famagusta Municipality for their contributions to the project. Prof. Dr. Karatepe also underlined that EMU will continue to support greater participation of female students in the fields of computing and technology.

Supporting Female Students in Technology Education

The EMU TechGirls Committee stated that its aim is to increase the number of female students pursuing education in computing and technology, support those currently studying in these fields, and contribute to their development as future leaders in the sector. Highlighting the importance of greater representation of women both in the technology industry and in decision-making processes, the Committee emphasized that this scholarship initiative, which promotes gender equality and encourages achievement in technology, is the first of its kind in the country. The Committee also expressed its hope that EMU's approach to supporting female students in pursuing education and developing themselves in the fields of computing and technology will serve as an example for other institutions.

In its statement, the Committee said, “We hope that Fevziye's story will become an inspiring success story for girls in the TRNC who aspire to pursue a future in computing and technology.” The Committee noted that, as EMU TechGirls, they organize activities aimed at empowering female students at the University and encouraging high school students to pursue education in computing and technology. It added that such initiatives would continue to be developed in line with students' needs and expectations. Underscoring that a more equal and inclusive future will be shaped by the opportunities offered to today's girls, the Committee also drew attention to the importance of expanding such initiatives across all areas of society.

“You Guided Me through One of the Most Critical Periods of My Life”

During the visit, Atalay stated that the competition and meetings with role models had broadened her perspective and strengthened her self-confidence. She explained that throughout her preparatory education, she continued to improve her knowledge in the field of technology and learn new applications. Emphasizing that the scholarship had made a significant difference in her life, Atalay expressed her gratitude by saying, “You guided me through one of the most critical periods of my life.”



EMU HOSTS “4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND FAMILIES”



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) hosted the “4th International Symposium on the Empowerment of Women and Families” held at the Rauf Raif Denktaş Culture and Congress Center on 24-26 September 2026. The symposium approached women studies, family structure, social transformation and empowerment processes with an interdisciplinary outlook. Bringing academics, researchers and experts from different countries together, the event did not just serve as an environment for scientific sharing, it also encouraged new research and collaborations.

Previously hosted by Yalova University in 2023, Firat University in 2024, and Düzce University in 2025, this year the symposium was held in collaboration with Adnan Menderes University, Azerbaijan Republic Odlar Yurdu University, Düzce University, Firat University, Giresun University, Kırklareli University, Kilis 7 Aralık University, Kocaeli University, Uzbekistan University of Journalism and Mass Communications, Sakarya University, Sinop University, State University of Trade and Economics (Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics), Süleyman Demirel University, and Yalova University.

The opening ceremony, held at 9:30 a.m. on 24 September 2026, was attended by TRNC Minister of Labor and Social Security Oğuzhan Hasipoğlu, TRNC Members of Parliament Fide Kürşat and Şifa Çolakoğlu, EMU Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe, EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren, EMU Secretary General Derviş Ekşici, Director of the TRNC Social Services Department Alev Ecevit members of the Executive Board of the Cyprus Turkish Women’s Union, as well as academics and students.

Chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Süheyla Üçışık Erbilin, Chair of EMU Center for Women Studies (CWS), and Prof. Dr. Kağan Güncü, a faculty member at the EMU Faculty of Architecture, the symposium focused on efforts to strengthen women’s positions in social, economic, cultural, and political life, as well as care work, and inclusive social structures.

Over the course of the symposium, total of 101 paper presentations, 67 in person and 34 online, took place.

“Women’s Empowerment and Family Empowerment Are Complementary Processes”

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erbilin stated that economic inequalities, difficulties in accessing education and employment, caregiving responsibilities, poverty, migration, wars, digital inequalities and gender-based discrimination directly affect the lives of women and families. Emphasizing that the empowerment of women and families should be addressed as a shared responsibility within the framework of human rights, social justice and sustainable development, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erbilin noted that strong families can be built on the foundations of equality, mutual respect, solidarity, trust and responsibility. Highlighting that women’s empowerment and family empowerment are complementary processes, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erbilin stated that families in which women’s rights are protected, their contributions are recognized and they participate equally in decision-making processes form the foundation of healthier and more democratic societies.

“Women’s Participation in Social, Economic and Political Life Is of Great Importance”

EMU Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Karatepe noted





that the symposium program featured studies from a range of disciplines and expressed his hope that the papers to be presented would contribute to the empowerment of women and to a more comprehensive examination of family structures. Stressing the importance of women's participation in social, economic and political life, Prof. Dr. Karatepe stated that women have faced discrimination within both the family and society for centuries, adding that efforts to eliminate such discrimination continue to this day.

"Efforts to Empower Women Should Be Supported by Concrete Policies"

TRNC Minister of Labor and Social Security Oğuzhan Hasipoğlu drew attention to the importance of empowering women and strengthening the family for the future of society and congratulated EMU for hosting the symposium. Minister Hasipoğlu stated that discourse on women's empowerment should be supported by concrete policies and practices, adding that the Ministry is carrying out initiatives aimed at helping women achieve economic independence and build their futures through their own efforts. Minister Hasipoğlu further noted that vocational training courses for women are organized through the Social Services Department and that psychosocial support is also provided. He stated that their

aim is to create lasting opportunities that will enable women to stand on their own feet and lead independent lives. On the first day of the symposium, Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University academic staff member Prof. Dr. Pınar Ülgen delivered an invited presentation titled "Kadınlar Sessiz Değildi, Tarih Sağırdı: Orta Çağ Avrupa'sından Günümüze Kadının Yolculuğu (Women Were Not Silent, History Was Deaf: The Journey of Women from Medieval Europe to the Present Day)". Following the presentation, Symposium Chair Assoc. Prof. Dr. Süheyla Üçışık Erbilin presented Prof. Dr. Ülgen with a gift.

Special Session on "Pioneering Women of the Republic"

The first day of the symposium also featured a special session titled "Cumhuriyet'in Öncü Kadınları (Pioneering Women of the Republic)." Moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Banu Dalaman, the session included presentations by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dalaman, Assist. Prof. Dr. Nuran Halise Belet, Assist. Prof. Dr. Merve Uysal, Sema Metin, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma İlknur Akgül and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Süheyla Üçışık Erbilin. The presentations explored the transformative role women have played from the eighteenth century to the present day in the fields of literature, the press, education, science, politics, law, art and culture.

"Different Institutions and Scientific Perspectives Came Together Around a Common Purpose"

In her remarks, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erbilin stated that one of the key strengths of the symposium was its ability to bring together different institutions and diverse scientific perspectives around a common purpose. She emphasized that the symposium once again demonstrated the importance of approaching studies on women and the family from a multidisciplinary perspective and showed that these issues cannot be adequately addressed within the boundaries of a single academic discipline.

Furthermore, she noted that organizing such a comprehensive scientific event was the result of a collective effort and extended her thanks to all collaborating universities, particularly the host institution, EMU; to the academics, researchers and experts who contributed to the symposium with their papers; to the distinguished reviewers involved in the scientific evaluation process; to the members of the scientific committee; and to the entire team who worked devotedly at every stage of the organization. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erbilin further expressed her belief that the cooperation and solidarity demonstrated in the realization of the symposium would provide a strong foundation for future scientific studies and collaborations.



STRONG EMU REPRESENTATION IN THE GLOBAL ENGINEERING NETWORK: PROF. DR. TOLGA ÇELİK APPOINTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TÜRKİYE SECTION

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Rector's Office Coordinator and Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering academic staff member Prof. Dr. Tolga Çelik has been appointed as the Secretary General of the Türkiye Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), one of the world's oldest and most respected professional organizations in the field of civil engineering.

As part of the appointment process for the position of Secretary General of the ASCE Türkiye Section, Prof. Dr. Çelik's name was submitted to ASCE Global Programs, headquartered in the United States, by Türkiye Section President Dr. Abiola Ayopo Abiodun. Following a process of meetings, evaluation and consultation with Brenda Puch, Manager of ASCE Global Programs Region 10 Sections & Branches, Prof. Dr. Çelik received an official invitation to assume the position of Secretary General of the Türkiye Section. Prof. Dr. Çelik accepted the invitation and officially assumed the role.

Strong EMU Representation in the Leadership of ASCE Türkiye

The fact that ASCE Türkiye Section President Dr. Abiola Ayopo Abiodun completed both his master's degree in 2013 and his PhD in 2020 at the EMU Department of Civil Engineering adds particular significance to the appointment from EMU's perspective. With Dr. Abiodun serving as President and Prof. Dr. Tolga Çelik as Secretary General, EMU now has strong representation at the highest levels of the ASCE Türkiye Section leadership. EMU is therefore represented in the senior management of ASCE Türkiye by both an alumnus and a member of its academic staff.

A Global Engineering Network Since 1852

Founded in 1852, ASCE operates on a global scale in the areas of engineering standards, scientific and technical publications, conferences, professional development activities and student organizations, with more than 160,000 members and a network spanning 177 countries. ASCE's structure outside North America, known as Global Region 10, covers 174 countries and includes 30 officially recognized country-level Sections. In Europe, Türkiye is among the countries with an official ASCE Section, alongside the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Greece.

Having operated with International Group status since 2006, ASCE Türkiye officially gained Section status on 15 January 2025. During the new administrative term, the Türkiye Section aims to further strengthen its ties with international professional networks.

ASCE's Global Network to Create New Opportunities for EMU, the TRNC and Türkiye

Prof. Dr. Çelik stated that one of the main objectives for the new term is to transform ASCE's global knowledge base and professional network into tangible benefits for EMU, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the engineering community in Türkiye. Within this framework, plans include developing joint projects, technical events, professional development activities and international symposia in cooperation with professional organizations in the TRNC, particularly the Chamber of Civil Engineers under the Union of the Chambers of Cyprus Turkish Engineers and Architects (KTMMOB), as well as relevant chambers, universities, public institutions and industry representatives in Türkiye.

Among the objectives for the coming period are also the establishment of new academic and professional links with the 30 country-level Sections operating under ASCE Global Region 10, the organization of joint international activities and symposia, bringing experts from different countries together with EMU and the wider region, and further enhancing the University's visibility within the international engineering community. Supporting students' access to ASCE's international network and encouraging Student Chapter activities also constitute an important part of this vision.

An Active Role in Academia, Industry and International Collaboration

Throughout an academic career spanning approximately 11 years, Prof. Dr. Tolga Çelik has successfully supervised 25 master's and 3 doctoral students to graduation. He has also been invited to serve on numerous master's and doctoral thesis committees and to contribute to academic evaluation processes at various universities in Türkiye and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Prof. Dr. Çelik has authored more than 14 academic publications in internationally indexed scientific journals and continues his research activities in collaboration with various research groups. He is currently supervising six master's and doctoral students and conducting research aimed at contributing to the international scientific literature.

Prof. Dr. Çelik has continued to pursue his academic work alongside active engagement in industry and international professional activities. In the fields of Project and Construction Management, BIM, digital transformation and innovative construction practices, he has undertaken various roles and responsibilities in national and international engineering projects, project management,



business development and international initiatives. In addition to serving as Coordinator at the EMU Rector's Office, Prof. Dr. Çelik is also a member of the EMU Technopark Executive Board. Since 2019, he has served as Director of International Relations at BIM4TÜRKİYE, where he has been involved in developing international collaborations and strengthening global connections. With 20,000 members and more than 700 supporting institutions, BIM4TÜRKİYE brings together stakeholders from industry, academia, the public sector and technology within a broad professional ecosystem.

Prof. Dr. Çelik is the youngest civil engineer in the history of the TRNC and Türkiye to attain the title of professor in the field of Construction Management within a Department of Civil Engineering. His academic and postgraduate background, industry and project management experience, work in innovation, involvement in international projects, and long-standing engagement in international relations and business development constitute the professional experience that distinguished him during the evaluation process for the position of Secretary General of the ASCE Türkiye Section.

"An Important Appointment Strengthening EMU's International Representation"

EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç congratulated Prof. Dr. Tolga Çelik on his new appointment and stated that the involvement of EMU academics and alumni in the leadership of international professional organizations reflects the University's accumulated expertise in education and research on the international stage. Prof. Dr. Kılıç added that it is a source of pride to see an EMU graduate and an EMU academic serving together in the leadership of the ASCE Türkiye Section, and emphasized his belief that this representation will contribute to the development of new academic and professional collaborations.

DENKTAŞ MAUSOLEUM PROJECT BROUGHT TO LIFE WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF EMU URDC

The landscaping and environmental design project for the Rauf Raif Denktaş Mausoleum and Republic Park was developed and brought to life by the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Urban Research and Development Center (URDC). Aimed at enhancing the area dedicated to preserving the memory of Rauf Raif Denktaş, the Founding President of the Turkish Cypriot people, the project re-envisioned the surroundings of the mausoleum and Republic Park through a contemporary landscape design approach.

Drawing on EMU's academic expertise and institutional knowledge throughout both the planning and implementation stages, the project brought together academics and specialists from a range of disciplines. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Hoşkara, Chair of the EMU URDC Executive Board and faculty member of the EMU Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture, served as a member of the project's design team. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevter Zafer Cömert, a member of the EMU URDC Executive Board and faculty member of the EMU Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture, coordinated the project while also taking part as a member of the design team.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cömert stated that, given the profound significance of the project, the entire process had been both challenging and deeply rewarding for the team. She emphasized that designing a resilient and inclusive public park befitting the legacy of Rauf Raif Denktaş and the character of Cyprus was no simple undertaking. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cömert also



noted that contributing to such a meaningful project had been a valuable and significant opportunity for everyone involved.

Prof. Dr. Hoşkara stated that the project represents a meaningful initiative both in preserving the memory of Rauf Raif Denktaş and in reimagining an important public space. She explained that the aim was to create an accessible, sustainable and inclusive public area that responds to contemporary needs while preserving the site's historical and symbolic significance. Prof. Dr. Hoşkara also emphasized that the project stands as an important example of how EMU's academic expertise and knowledge can make a direct contribution to society.

EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç underscored that the project stands as an important example of how the University's academic knowledge and expertise can be translated into tangible benefits for society. He also extended his appreciation to all academics and specialists who contributed to the project. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Kılıç noted that EMU contributes to society and the country not only through its educational and research activities, but also by putting its expertise and accumulated scientific knowledge at the service of the community. He added that projects of this nature, undertaken by the URDC, are also a reflection of the University's commitment to social responsibility.

EMU ACADEMIC ASSIST. PROF. DR. BAŞARAN SHARES NUTRITION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AGE OF LONGEVITY

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Faculty of Health Sciences Vice Dean Assist. Prof. Dr. Asiye Yeter Başaran released a statement titled "Adding Life to Years, and Years to Life: How Should We Eat in the Age of Longevity?" on the occasion of October 1, International Day of Older Persons.

"The United Nations has designated the theme of the 2026 International Day of Older Persons, observed on 1 October, as 'The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives.' This theme brings us face to face with a vital question: how should we spend the additional years that humanity has gained? Yes, medicine is advancing

and average life expectancy is increasing. However, the real issue is not simply living a 'long' life, but how energetic, independent and fulfilling we are able to remain throughout those years. As we rethink our systems, cities and hospitals, perhaps the most fundamental change we need to make on an individual level lies in something we place in front of ourselves every single day: our plate. In other words, our dietary habits.

Growing older is inevitable, but how we age is, to a large extent, shaped by the choices we make. Preventing muscle loss (sarcopenia), one of the major health challenges of the age of longevity, keeping the mind sharp and active, and maintaining strong bones all begin in the kitchen. So, what is the nutritional formula for healthy ageing in this new era?

Prevent muscle loss with protein: As we age, the loss of muscle mass (sarcopenia) tends to accelerate. To help prevent this, each meal should include high-quality protein sources such as fish, chicken, eggs, legumes, low-fat milk, kefir and yoghurt, providing an individually tailored daily protein intake of approximately 1.2–2.0 g per kilogram of body weight.

Renew your cells with fibre and antioxidants: Colorful seasonal vegetables, fresh fruits and whole grains act as a protective shield against cellular ageing thanks to their rich content of vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants. They also help strengthen the immune system.

Beware of the invisible threat—stay hydrated: As we age, the body's thirst signals become less pronounced, and older adults often report that they do not feel thirsty.

Yet the body's need for water does not diminish. Drinking an individually appropriate amount of water each day—generally around two to three liters—can be considered one of the simplest, most affordable and most effective ways to support healthy ageing.

Control Vitamin D levels: Depending on skin type, exposing the skin to sunlight without sunscreen for approximately 10–30 minutes between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. may be sufficient to support vitamin D synthesis. If vitamin D deficiency is still present, however, vitamin D levels should be brought to an optimal range under medical supervision and in accordance with a physician's recommendations.

Avoid ultra-processed foods: To improve quality of life and support healthy ageing and longevity, avoid including ultra-processed foods in your diet.

The meaningful theme chosen for 2026 reminds us of an important reality: in the world of the future, older age will not be a period of "stepping aside," but an active stage of life. As governments and institutions adapt their systems to the needs of ageing populations, we too should review our own personal health system—namely, our dietary habits.

Let us remember: proper nutrition does not simply add years to life; it adds true "life" to those years."

Golden Advice

"An individually tailored, adequate, balanced and healthy diet is the most powerful elixir of youth in the age of longevity."



EMU EMPHASIZES LIFELONG LUNG HEALTH ON WORLD LUNG DAY



Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Faculty of Health Sciences Dean Prof. Dr. Mehtap Malkoç and Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation academic staff member Assist. Prof. Dr. İlker Yatar issued a statement on behalf of the Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Unit on the occasion of World Lung Day, observed on 25 September. The statement reads as follows:

“Observed every year on 25 September, World Lung Day is not merely an awareness day drawing attention to respiratory diseases. It is also an important public health call reminding us that lung health must be protected throughout every stage of life. With the 2026 theme, “Healthy Breathing for a Lifetime,” emphasis is placed on safeguarding respiratory health from childhood through to older age. It is not enough to address lung health only after disease develops. What truly matters is protecting lung function from the earliest stages of life, reducing risk factors, and enabling individuals to maintain the highest possible level of physical capacity throughout their lives.

Respiratory diseases continue to be a major cause of illness and reduced quality of life. Asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pneumonia, lung cancer, and other chronic respiratory conditions affect not only the lungs, but also an individual’s mobility, ability to perform daily activities, independence, and participation in social life. For this reason, evaluating lung health solely in terms of the ability to breathe would be incomplete. For us, the key question is this: How effectively can individuals use their breathing in daily life? Can they move comfortably, climb stairs, walk, and continue to live independently?

Lung Health Begins to Take Shape in the Earliest Stages of Life

Lung development begins before birth. Exposure to cigarette and tobacco smoke during pregnancy, air pollution, nutritional deficiencies, and environmental risk factors can adversely affect lung development. During childhood and adolescence, the lungs continue to develop until an individual reaches their peak lung capacity. Therefore, it is extremely important for children to grow up in environments with clean air, to be protected from second-hand smoke, to receive

appropriate treatment for respiratory infections, and to make regular physical activity a natural part of everyday life.

In Adulthood, the Goal Is Not Only to Prevent Disease, but Also to Preserve Capacity

During adulthood, avoiding smoking and other tobacco products, engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy diet, and reducing exposure to environmental risks are among the key measures for protecting lung health. Individuals who experience shortness of breath tend to become less physically active. As activity levels decline, muscle strength and exercise capacity also decrease. With reduced physical capacity, the same daily activities become more demanding, causing shortness of breath to be felt more intensely. This is precisely where respiratory physiotherapy and cardiopulmonary rehabilitation play a vital role.

Respiratory Physiotherapy Is Much More Than Breathing Exercises

Respiratory physiotherapy is sometimes perceived by the public as little more than teaching a few breathing exercises. In reality, however, modern cardiopulmonary rehabilitation is a far more comprehensive approach. An individual’s respiratory function, muscle strength, exercise capacity, daily activities, level of physical activity, and degree of shortness of breath are assessed in detail. A personalized rehabilitation program is then developed in accordance with the individual’s specific needs. Such programs may include aerobic exercise, strengthening exercises, breathing exercises, respiratory muscle training, strategies to increase physical activity, energy conservation techniques, and, where necessary, airway clearance techniques. Particularly in chronic respiratory diseases such as COPD, one of the primary goals of cardiopulmonary rehabilitation is to help individuals become more active and independent in their daily lives.

Movement Is an Essential Part of Lung Health

The importance of regular physical activity in maintaining lung health is often not emphasized enough. Yet physical activity is crucial not only for cardiovascular, muscular, and bone health, but also for preserving cardiorespiratory capacity. Especially in older age, avoiding movement because of shortness of breath may lead to a more rapid loss of independence. Therefore, rather than adopting the approach of

“I get short of breath, so I should avoid physical activity,” individuals should ask, under the guidance of healthcare professionals, “How can I stay active safely and appropriately?” Determining an appropriate level of exercise intensity, managing shortness of breath, and restructuring daily activities are among the key areas in which physiotherapists play an important role.

What Can We Do to Protect Our Lung Health?

One of the most important steps is to avoid smoking and other tobacco products. In addition, exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution should be reduced, enclosed spaces should be ventilated regularly, recommended vaccinations should be kept up to date, respiratory infections should not be neglected, and routine health check-ups should be maintained. However, we would like to add one more essential point: staying active. Engaging in regular physical activity appropriate to our age, health status, and physical capacity is one of the key components of maintaining both lung and cardiovascular health. For individuals with chronic respiratory diseases, it is important that, following an appropriate assessment, they are not advised to avoid exercise. On the contrary, they should be guided towards a safe and effective exercise program tailored to their individual needs.

EMU Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Unit Stands by the Community

As the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Unit of the Eastern Mediterranean University Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, we provide assessment, physiotherapy, exercise counselling, and rehabilitation services for individuals experiencing respiratory and cardiopulmonary conditions. At our Unit, each individual’s health status, physical capacity, exercise tolerance, and difficulties encountered in daily life are assessed in detail, allowing personalized approaches to be planned according to their specific needs. Our aim is not only to provide rehabilitation support after a condition develops, but also to strengthen preventive health awareness within the community, promote physical activity, and contribute to the lifelong protection of lung health.

Healthy Lungs Mean an Active Life

Breathing is fundamental to life; however, for a healthy life, what truly matters is being able to sustain that breath through movement, independence, and active participation in everyday life.”



EMU CALLS FOR INFORMED PROTECTION AGAINST WEST NILE VIRUS

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Health Sciences Faculty, Nutrition and Dietetics Department academic staff member and Microbiology Specialist Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tevhide Ziver Sarp issued a statement titled “More Than A Mosquito Bite: West Nile Virus and TRNC”. The said statement reads as follows:

“The detection of West Nile Virus cases in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) has raised a number of questions and concerns among the public. West Nile Virus, which is transmitted through mosquito bites, is not a newly emerging infection. It has been known for many years and is periodically reported across Europe and the Mediterranean region, particularly during seasons when mosquito activity is high. Therefore, rather than panicking, it is important to have accurate information about West Nile Virus and to be aware of the measures that can be taken to protect against the disease.

What is West Nile Virus? How is it transmitted?

West Nile Virus is an RNA virus belonging to the Flaviviridae family and is transmitted to humans through the bites of Culex mosquitoes. Birds and mosquitoes play a central role in the virus’s natural transmission cycle. Culex mosquitoes can acquire the virus while feeding on infected birds and may subsequently transmit it to humans. Humans are generally considered “final hosts” because they do not contribute significantly to the continuation of the virus’s natural transmission cycle. The amount of virus present in the blood of an infected person is too low to infect another mosquito that bites them. For this reason, West Nile Virus does not normally spread through a transmission chain from an infected person to a mosquito and then to another person. The virus is also not transmitted from person to person through respiratory droplets or everyday contact such as shaking hands, hugging, or being in the same environment.

What are the Symptoms of Infection?

Approximately 80% of people infected with West Nile Virus experience no symptoms. In some cases, however, symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, muscle and

joint pain, nausea, or skin rash may occur and can last for 3–10 days. In less than 1% of infected individuals, the virus may affect the central nervous system and lead to serious neurological conditions such as meningitis, encephalitis, or paralysis. For this reason, although West Nile Virus infection is often asymptomatic, it remains an important vector-borne infection that requires particular attention in older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems. While a mosquito bite does not necessarily mean that infection has occurred, people in higher-risk groups should remain alert to possible symptoms and seek medical advice if they develop any concerning signs.

Why Is Its Detection in Cyprus Significant?

The West Nile Virus cases detected in the TRNC should be considered within the broader context of the seasonal circulation of the virus across Europe and the Mediterranean region. Data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) indicate that cases have continued to be reported in a number of European countries in 2026 and that Cyprus is among the areas where West Nile Virus infections have been recorded. According to the ECDC, the spread of the virus is influenced not only by temperature and environmental conditions, but also by the presence and density of mosquito populations and the movement of birds. In this respect, Cyprus’s Mediterranean climate, prolonged periods of warm weather, and geographical position along bird migration routes are important factors to consider in relation to West Nile Virus. For this reason, it is important that cases detected in the country are closely monitored and that surveillance activities, mosquito-control measures, and personal protection practices continue to be implemented effectively.

How Can We Protect Ourselves Against West Nile Virus?

As there is currently no approved vaccine for human use or virus-specific treatment for West Nile Virus, the main approach to prevention is to avoid mosquito bites and keep mosquito populations under control. Especially during the evening and nighttime



hours, when mosquitoes are more active, wearing light-colored clothing that covers as much of the body as possible and using mosquito repellents can help reduce the risk of bites. Installing screens on windows and doors can also help prevent mosquitoes from entering indoor living spaces. In addition, eliminating sources of standing water around homes and surrounding areas—such as plant saucers, buckets, water containers, and uncovered storage tanks—is an important part of mosquito control, as these can provide suitable breeding sites.

However, efforts to combat West Nile Virus are limited to individual precautions. Effective community-level protection also requires health authorities, municipalities, and relevant institutions to work in coordination, regularly monitor mosquito populations and virus circulation, control breeding sites, and implement planned, sustainable vector-control program based on scientific evidence.

Informed Prevention Rather Than Fear

Ultimately, the most effective response to West Nile Virus is not fear, but awareness, reliable information, and appropriate preventive measures. In addition to personal protection, maintaining regular mosquito surveillance and sustained control efforts is crucial for containing current cases and reducing the risk of similar infections in the future.”

EMU 29TH ORIENTATION DAYS FINISH WITH A WELCOME NIGHT EVENT



Within the scope of the 29th Orientation Days organized by the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), new students coming to the university got the opportunity to familiarize with the campus and the city of Famagusta, while also receiving information on support services provided for students. The Welcome Night, final event of the Orientation program, brought students together with student clubs and international student communities, offering them the opportunity to learn more about the ways they can engage in the University's social and cultural life.

The event took place on Friday, 25 September 2026 at the EMU Beach Club. Organized with communication sponsorship of North Cyprus Turcell and support of the Famagusta Municipality, the event featured Niyal Öztürk Band and DJ DODO.

“Leave Your Mark Here”

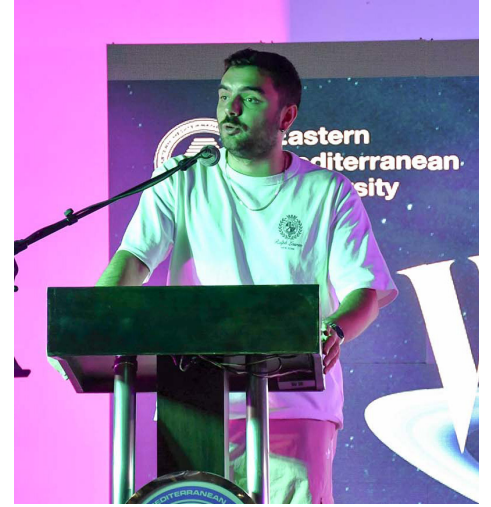
EMU Student Council President Rahmi Direnç Sezer highlighted the contribution of student



clubs and societies to developing teamwork, responsibility and problem-solving skills. Addressing the new students, Sezer said, “Don’t leave this University with just a diploma. Leave your mark here.”

“We Are Pleased to Contribute to Our Students’ Development”

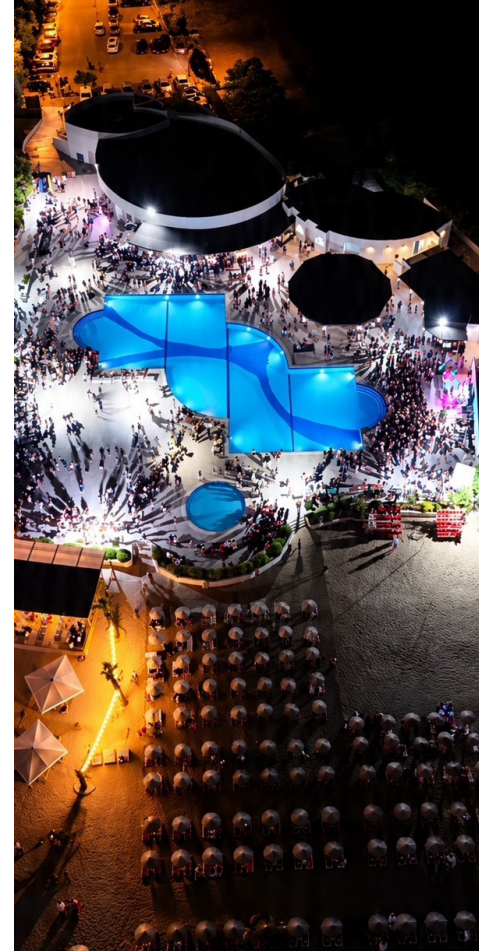
EMU Vice Rector for Promotion and Institutional Communication Prof. Dr. Ali Öztüren welcomed students from different countries to EMU and Famagusta. Acknowledging the efforts of their families



and teachers in helping them reach this stage, Prof. Dr. Öztüren expressed his pleasure that the University would now contribute to their continued academic development.

“Student Satisfaction Is Shaped by Social Activities and Experiences beyond the Classroom”

EMU Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Osman M. Karatepe stated that student satisfaction is shaped not only by academic education but also by social activities and experiences beyond the classroom. Referring to the importance attached





to student satisfaction and internationalization within EMU's 2030 vision, Prof. Dr. Karatepe encouraged students to take an active part in student clubs and university events. Noting that young people from more than 100 countries study together at EMU, Prof. Dr. Karatepe added that this multicultural environment offers students valuable opportunities to discover different cultures and learn from one another.

From Meet and Greet to Campus Life

As part of the 29th Orientation Days, held under the theme "Listen to This Voice," student assistants and research assistants guided new

students both at the airport and across the campus. Academic preparation sessions, campus and Famagusta tours, and practical information on daily life helped students adapt to both the

University and the city. Introductions to social events and sports activities also enabled students to become more familiar with the wide range of opportunities available on campus.





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**Eastern
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