**Report on Academic Exchange program in Russia, 2019**

|  |
| --- |
| **Title:** Educational program “Biostatistics”  **Date(s):** from 25.01.2019 to 01.02.2019    **Student:** Zhumagaliyeva Kamila |
| **Preamble:**  The 8 days of educational workshop “Biostatistics” of the MPH program has been conducted in St. Petersburg, Russia.  This workshop was organized by Nagasaki and Fukushima Medical Universities (Japan) and North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov (Russian Federation). |
| **Participant’s Profile:**  Totally 10 international students. Eight students from Nagasaki Medical University and two students from Fukushima Medical University. |
| **Description of the program:**  On the inaugural function, Professor Plavinskii and other representatives of medical university gave a speech according to the educational workshop and explained organizational questions.  At the beginning of discipline, we briefly overview history and founders of biostatistics. Further, Professor Plavinskii gave an examples and demonstrated in easy way study designs. Such as RCT, cohort, case study, case-series, ecological and classifying them into descriptive and analytical.  According to the [statistical significance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statistical_significance) test used in the analysis, I learnt deeply about Fisher’s exact test, p-value, z-test. Professor Plavinskii represented a lot of cases to clearly understand them.  As well, one of the themes of lecture was Logistic regression. It is a powerful tool for binary variables analysis. There are methods to analyze nominal and ordinal variables and logistic regression demands thinking when selecting model and evaluate its fit.  During the several classes, professor introduced two basic statistical software named “R” and “SAS University edition”. I worked at “R” software language. It was first time, trying to create boxplots, histograms, maps. But, the most comprehensive part is to interpret results.  At the end of each lecture, I had an opportunity to ask and discuss unclear questions with professor.  At last day, Sensei and staff evaluated our knowledge through the test (10 questions, 1.5 min per one case) and I was awarded with certificate.  So, the 40 hours of study have been completed with a combination of lectures, practical works, self-study and examination tests and account for a total of 2 credits. |
| **Feedback:**  Positive: 1. Schedule is well organized. Staff had a respectful attitude.  2. Professor Plavinksii demonstrated some cases throughout the giving easy examples, telling case histories and their origin.  3. Professor Plavinskii highly educated, motivating and inspiring teacher. He shared all necessary knowledge with us. Professor offered to help us at any time, if we will have problem and misunderstandings during working with “R” or “SAS” languages.    Negative: Throughout the academic exchange program, I have learnt many things about the software to make statistical analysis. But, unfortunately, 8 days are not enough to learn commands and language of statistical software. It demands more practice and explanation.  In short, I would like to thank everyone for introducing me to this great opportunity in which I have developed myself both academically, professionally and socially. |

