



## Committed to Thriving Social Development – Focused on the Challenges of a Humane Society.



Rector Wolfgang Schütz

The primary mission of the Medical University of Vienna—autonomous since 1 January 2004—is to serve research and education in the broadest sense.

It seeks advances in medical science to cure and relieve the symptoms of illness, maintain health, and foster social prosperity in a thriving environment.

Building on its research programs, educational facilities, and curricula, the Medical University of Vienna strives to respond effectively to the ever-changing needs of state and society. Our newly established university, with centuries of tradition and experience, should and will excel in the coming years with a research profile best suited to meet these challenges. It also will distinguish itself with a curriculum that guarantees our medical students a state-of-the-art education and conforms to the highest standards.

In all its endeavors the Medical University of Vienna will remain focused on the goals of humane society. It openly embraces the principles of justice and the equality of all human beings, regardless of gender, origin, ethnic background, and religion. It is dedicated to internationalism and to shared responsibility for its recent history and the unjust deeds committed in its name during the

years of Austrian National Socialism. In addition to the central principle of equal opportunity for its faculty and students, our University dedicates itself equally to acknowledging and fostering individual achievement.

The demands on academic medicine from all realms of health care grow almost daily and increasingly challenge the traditional role of medicine. Among these are the age pyramid inversion, the accelerating shift to outpatient care, as well as the intensifying demand for health maintenance, partnership between physician and patient, and evidence-based medicine. They also include the transition from primarily specialist-oriented to integrative approaches to treatment, and the integration of additional disciplines such as ethics, law, nursing care research, palliative medicine and health economics into classical medicine. The newly autonomous Medical University of Vienna will meet all of these key challenges responsibly in the coming decades.

Wolfgang Schütz  
Rector, Medical University of Vienna



# The Path of Learning Leads to the Road of Knowledge.

## Education of Highly Qualified Physicians

In an intensive reform process, which began in 1998, the Medical University of Vienna established an educational concept that sets new standards of quality: the Medical Curriculum of Vienna (MCV).

At the core of the new curriculum, which was developed in consultation with models and analyses of the most contemporary medical education programs, is the principle of integrative and problem-oriented learning. Our graduate study in human and dental medicine has been recast completely. As early as the third semester, students learn basic medical skills and no longer study anatomy, pharmacology, and pathology "in isolation." The teaching of medical competence with the MCV proceeds step-by-step in topic-oriented modules. Courses on medical skills run parallel to these modules and are refined in the clinical third phase of the curriculum.

## Internationally Groundbreaking Pedagogical Methods

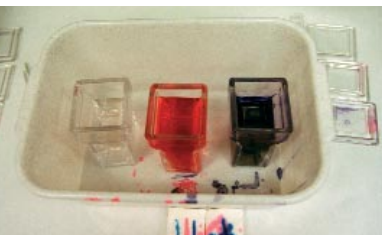
In the learning module dedicated to the heart, blood and circulation, for example, students acquire detailed relevant knowledge about the structure, development, and function of each, as well as the most frequent and significant cardiac and circulatory diseases. In the module on the brain, nervous system, and pain students learn imaging diagnostics, neurological examination methods, and the latest findings in analgesic research in conjunction with the anatomical basics of the brain and nervous system. With this internationally respected method of integrated learning it is possible to initiate an ever-expanding learning spiral that significantly eases the student's comprehension of interconnectedness.

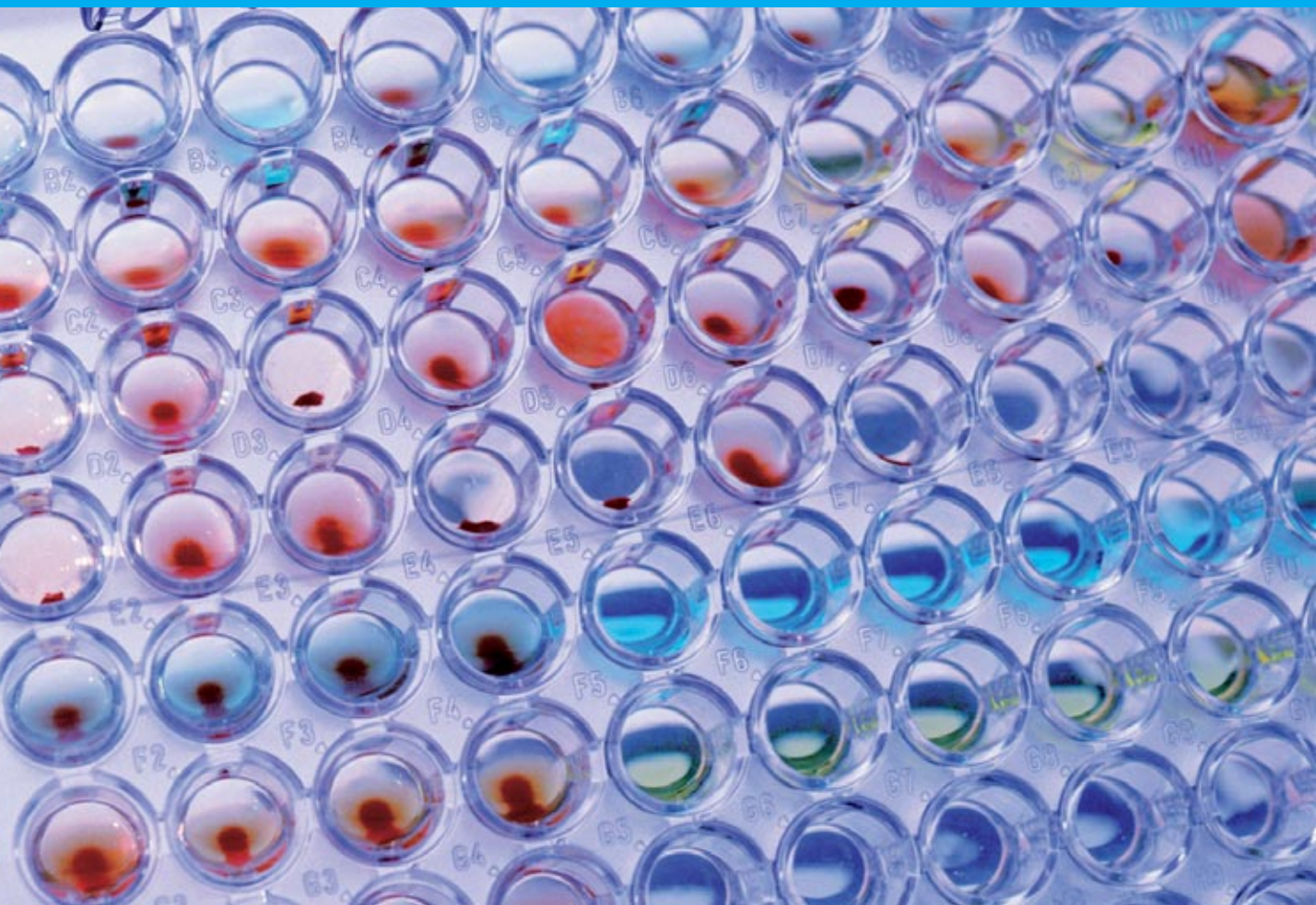
## Problem-Oriented Learning

In facilitating problem-solving competence, the MCV employs another groundbreaking didactic technique. With problem-oriented learning (POL) students must develop strategies and problem-solving methods for practical problems independently and under supervision throughout their studies. The POL cases correspond in this regard to the parallel knowledge modules. They also relate to relevant diagnostic and therapeutic possibilities, e.g. SARS, and everyday medical problems such as dealing with patient anxiety.

## Facilitating Communicative and Social Competence

The goal of this educational reform is to enhance the medical-scientific quality of graduates on all levels. Therefore, the new MCV places special emphasis on facilitating the students' communicative and social skills in their interaction with patients, as well as on the development of a well-reasoned ethical foundation ("attitude"). Students of the Medical Curriculum of Vienna complete the 12-semester graduate program in medicine with the title "Dr. med. univ." (MD) or "Dr. med. dent." (DentD). In the process they attain the right to participate in the four-semester doctoral study of medical sciences (MedScD), which affords a further intensifying level of scientific education.





## Offering Answers to the Questions of the Future.

### From Initial Investment to Top Research Performance

Moving the diversely located university departments and clinics to the completely new General Hospital, with over 3 million square meters of space at one location, was finished at the end of the 1990s and represented an investment in medical research for Vienna that is unprecedented in Europe. Utilizing almost 10,000 square meters of research space, 37 clinics and institutes have been able to achieve numerous breakthroughs in medical research with state-of-the-art medical equipment. Consequently, for some time now Viennese medicine has led in allergy and thrombosis research, as well as in genetically engineered diagnostics and therapies for allergies. In addition, the first institute of immunology in Europe was founded in Vienna. Our transplantation medicine now boasts the best percapita transplantation rate worldwide and the highest rate for lung transplantation in Europe. For years the close link between the basic clinical and theoretical components in cancer research has led to high levels of research output. The same holds true for thrombosis research in Vienna, where for the first time important risk factors for its treatment were described.

### Investing in Our Own Strengths and in Cooperative Partnerships

In the future we will focus on our own strengths to continually increase our potential for first-class research. In order to conduct research projects efficiently and successfully, we increasingly will relieve outstanding researchers temporarily from teaching and patient care responsibilities. The aim of the Medical University's new research policy will be to surpass its own expectations. The establishment of private-public partnership models will be of particular importance in creating a new and promising research landscape at the Medical University, as our high-field magnetic resonance and PET radio-tracer research programs exemplify. In the especially promising area of biological medicine, for example, cooperation between the City and the Medical University will enhance Vienna's reputation as an internationally attractive research center. In the process it will provide answers to questions of the future. The Medical University of Vienna now is ideally positioned to move again to the top in medical research.

### Entrepreneurial Endeavors, Performance-Oriented Research and Support

The University Act of 2002 (UG 2002) also affords new opportunities for expanding top medical achievements at the Medical University of Vienna (one of the largest in Europe with approximately 5,000 staff members, almost two thirds of whom are directly or indirectly involved in research). The Act's legal framework enables us to administer our research budgets autonomously, as well as to think and act as entrepreneurs. This, too, is virtually unprecedented in Europe. Performance-oriented and continuously evaluated research will be a matter of course and an essential component of our new business culture. The principle of equitable seed funding will be tied to support for success. Setting research priorities and allocating resources will be influenced increasingly by our ability to secure external funding, initiate spin-offs and industrial partnerships, and consequently by the success of individual researchers. With its innovative research concept the Medical University will become an attractive center for research.





## Medicine Has a Soul and Patients Know It.

### Patients Are the Center of Interest

Research and education at the Medical University of Vienna do not take place in a vacuum. Pivotal to all considerations are the patients. Their illnesses and spiritual needs deserve the undivided attention of our physicians, nursing staff, and all others—from those in the medical-technical services to the technical and administrative staff.

### General Hospital of Vienna: World-Renowned University Medical Center

By virtue of its cooperation with the Medical University of Vienna, the new General Hospital of Vienna (opened in 1994 and operated by the City of Vienna) functions as university, medical center, and Austria's largest medical research facility. The General Hospital's excellent international reputation, with first-class patient care, depends to no small extent on this cooperative partnership.

Together with the City nursing staff, personnel for medical-technical services, etc., 2,000 University physicians strive for round-the-clock, first-class care for the patients who have been entrusted to them.

State-of-the-art equipment and the commitment of medical specialists in all fields enable us to integrate the most promising results of international and our own research into patient care immediately.

### Top Performance for Self-Reliant Patients

The Medical University perceives itself as a unique service provider. Patients are not considered passive recipients of health care, rather as "clients" who have entrusted themselves to experts. An impeccable relationship of trust between the care-giving professional teams and the patient/client is, therefore, one of the essential prerequisites for a successful treatment.

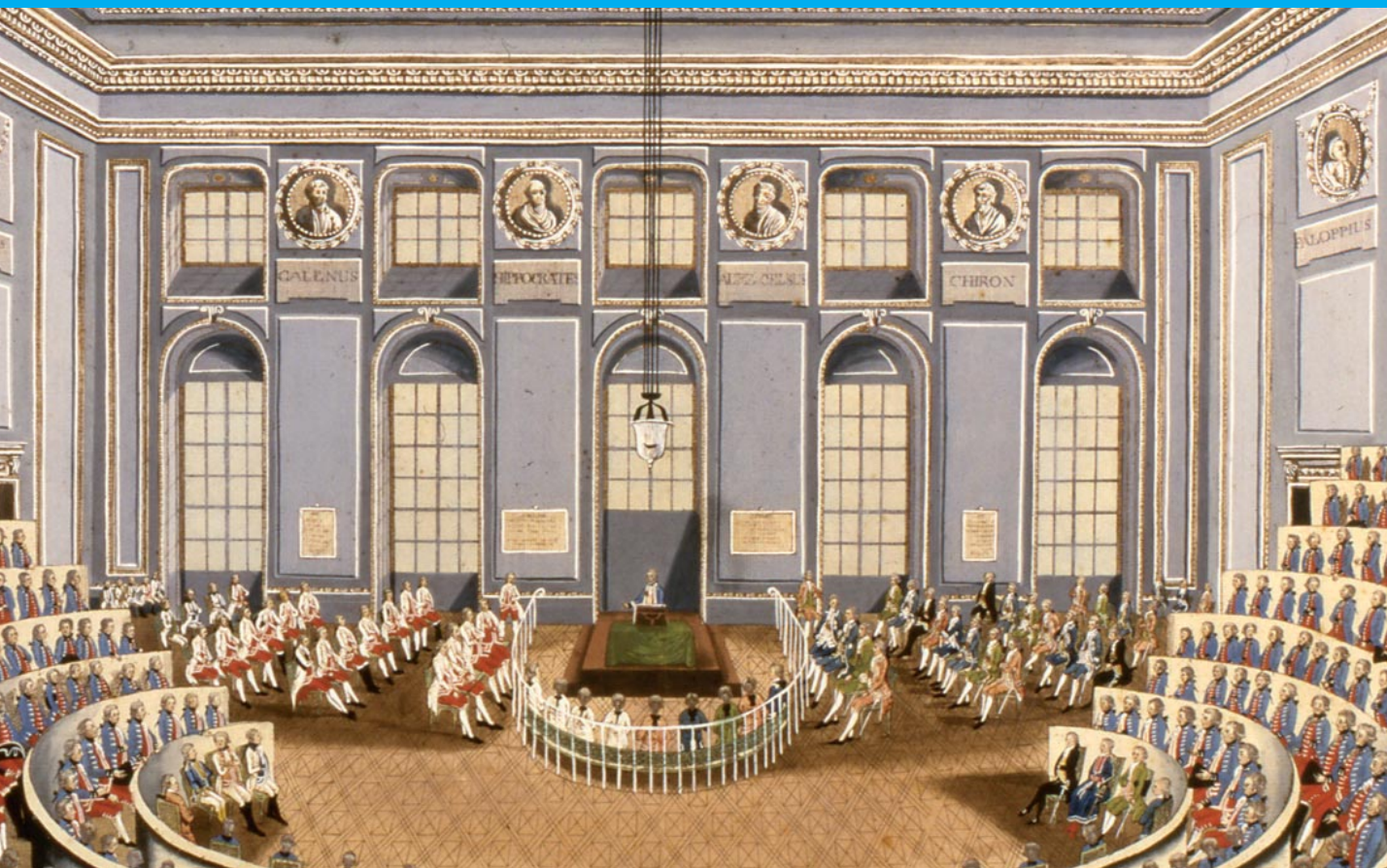
In this way approximately 94,000 inpatients are admitted and 35,000 operations conducted annually in the 33 University departments. Each year 440,000 individuals receive outpatient care. The various University departments record a total of 1.5 million patient contacts annually. Only excellent management, combined with constant evaluation and development of our services, enables first-class performance on such a large scale.

### Knowledge Transfer in Hospital Treatment

As a consequence of the Medical University of Vienna's newly acquired autonomy, it will be easier for us to distinguish ourselves as experts in knowledge transfer. Among other things, it is our aim to further enhance the General Hospital's reputation as a reference center for other hospitals. Today, new courses of treatment for frequent illnesses such as strokes and heart attacks are being developed. They define the quality standards for optimal treatment from the time of admission.

In addition, performance records will be kept in all University departments to ensure the best possible use of resources for patient treatment and care.





# Our History Is Our Future.

## Glorious Peaks and Painful Depths: Viennese Medicine

It began as a success story: As the founding member of the alma mater Rudolfina (1365), the medical faculty was already widely renowned in medieval times as an authority in medicine. Faculty records from as far back as 1399 document its mediation in disputes between barber surgeons, midwives, and local landowners. During the reign of Maria Theresia, Viennese medicine first attained international significance. The Habsburg monarch summoned the Dutch physician Gerard van Swieten, to Vienna. He in turn laid the foundation for the Vienna Medical School and paved the way for other leading figures. Anton de Haen, Maximilian Stoll, Lorenz Gasser, Anton von Störck, and the discoverer of the percussion technique, Leopold Auenbrugger, all taught and conducted research in the imperial city. Based on long-standing traditions, what now is referred to as bedside teaching also became the paradigmatic educational method during this period.

undertaken at this time. The excellent tradition and research extended well into the First Republic. Under the auspices of the American Medical Association of Vienna, which was founded in Vienna, well-received postgraduate courses for doctors worldwide were organized into the 1930s.

## The Turning Point: 13 March 1938

With the so-called annexation of Austria by National Socialist Germany on 13 March 1938 the darkest phase in Viennese medicine began. More than half of the University medical instructors, mostly those of Jewish descent, and 65% of Viennese physicians were dismissed. Many renowned researchers, physicians, and students were forced to emigrate or died in concentration camps and under other tragic circumstances. The victims of National Socialism shall always be remembered. The Medical University of Vienna perceives the 13th of March 1938 as a date of admonition and commemoration.

## Birthplace of Specialized Medicine

When the General Hospital opened in 1784, physicians acquired a new facility that gradually developed into the most important research center. During the 19th century, the "Second Vienna Medical School" emerged with the contributions of physicians such as Karl Rokitansky, Josef Skoda, Ferdinand von Hebra and Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis. Basic medical science expanded and specialization advanced. Furthermore, the first dermatology, eye, as well as ear, nose and throat clinics in the world were founded in Vienna.

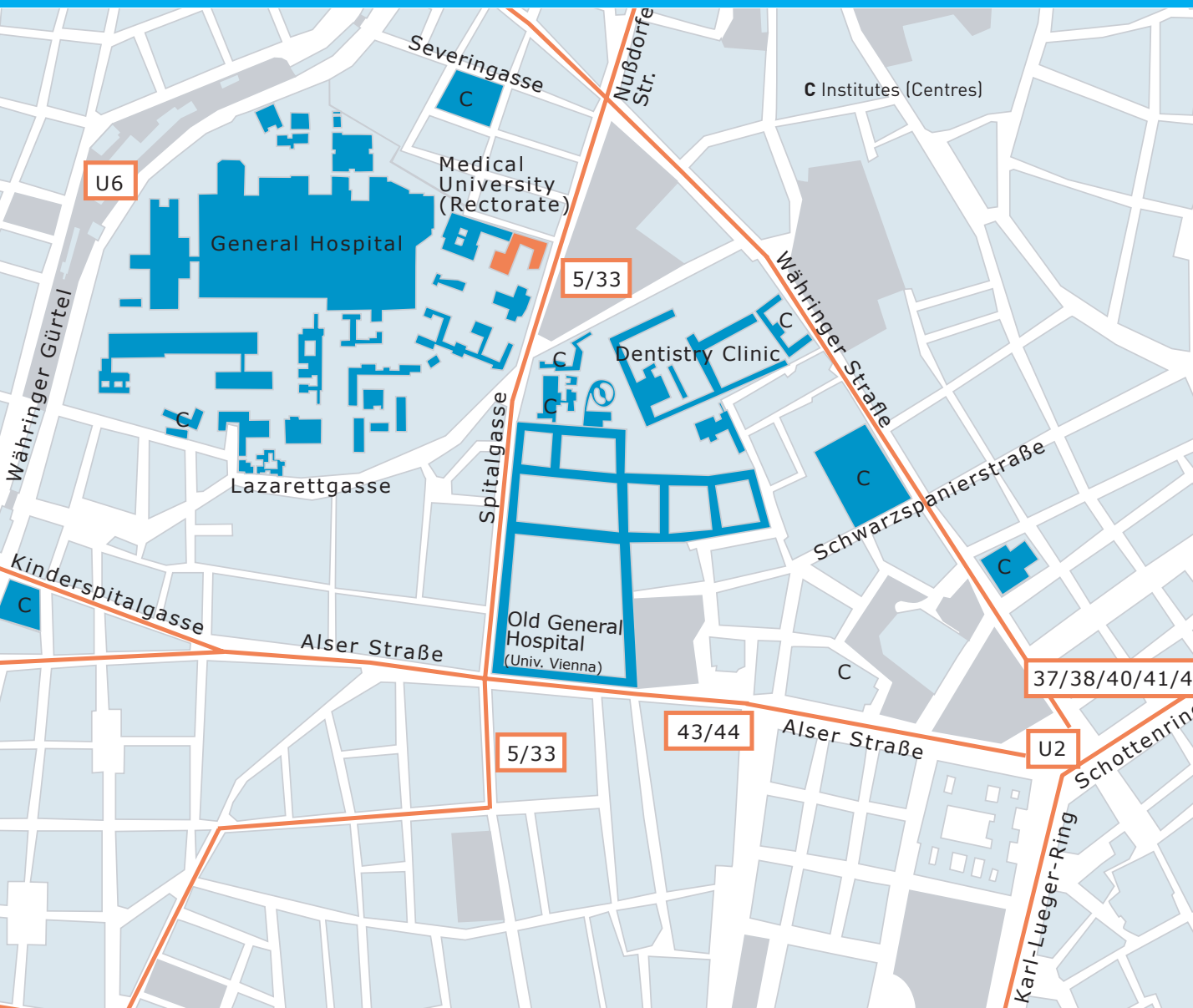
## 2004: A New Beginning with Vital Responsibility

In the aftermath of World War II the difficult reconstruction of Viennese medicine began. The past glory had faded considerably. Moreover, 75% of all remaining University medical instructors had to be dismissed because of their moderate to heavy involvement with the National Socialist regime. They were gradually replaced by a newly trained generation of educators. This double rupture in Viennese Medicine, which occurred in just a few years, caused repercussions that lasted decades. Since gaining autonomy on 1 January 2004, the Medical University of Vienna embraces its successes but also responsibility for the past as it proudly continues its quest for excellence.

## Center of Top Medicine at the Beginning of the 20th Century

At the beginning of the 20th Century Viennese medicine belonged to the first class internationally. Clemens von Pirquet defined the concepts of allergy and serum sickness, Ernst Peter Pick conducted significant experiments on the chemical specificity of immunological reactions, and the Vienna School of Dentistry (founded by Bernhard Gottlieb) reached its zenith in the 1920s. All four Nobel Prizes that were granted to (former) Viennese physicians during the next decades [Robert Bárány (1914), Julius Wagner-Jauregg (1927), Karl Landsteiner (1930), and Otto Loewi (1936)], were the result of work





## Facts + Figures

### Contact Information:

Medical University of Vienna  
 Spitalgasse 23  
 1090 Vienna  
 Austria  
 Phone +43 1 40160-0  
 Fax +43 1 40160-910000  
 Mail infopoint-meduni@meduniwien.ac.at

Web: [www.meduniwien.ac.at](http://www.meduniwien.ac.at)

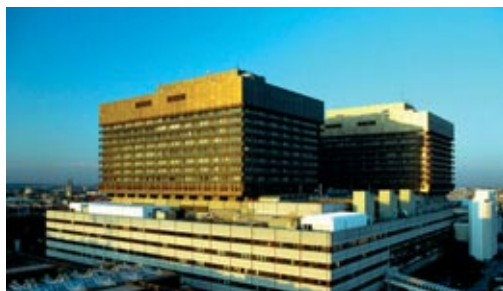
Staff: approximately 4,900  
 including 2,800 academic staff and physicians

### Degree Programmes:

- Human Medicine (MD)
- Dental Medicine (DentD)
- Doctor of Medical Sciences (MedScD)
- Health Care Management (MBA)
- Public Health
- Toxicology

### Departmental Structure:

- 33 clinical Departments,  
 incl. Dentistry Clinic "Bernhard Gottlieb Klinik"
- 11 Institutes



General Hospital of Vienna  
 University Clinics



Josephinum, former  
 Medical-Surgical Academy,  
 founded 1785



Medical University of Vienna  
 University Administration

# Plan Your Meeting Success now!

TEL. 0043-1-211 14 DW 521 - 527  
FAX. 0043-1-214 61 17  
convention@vienna.info  
www.vienna.convention.at

**Vienna**  
Wien · Vienne · Viena · ウィーン  
*Convention Bureau*



