

Laboratory of Metallomics and Nanotechnologies

invites you to seminar:

Metallomics and skin cancer – DEBRECEN meeting summary

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History

From the beginning to 1912



The roots of higher education in Debrecen go back to the 16th century. The Reformed College of Debrecen, founded in 1538, had a nationwide leading role in the preservation and development of Hungarian education and culture for centuries.

According to historical records, by the end of the 18th century the College had five departments, three of which were devoted to teaching philosophy. A great turn took place in 1908, when the Reformed Academy of Humanities was created and teacher training started, although within rather narrow bounds.

1912 - 1949



The College gave home to a wide array of higher education developments, which, thanks to the generosity of the people of Debrecen, greatly contributed to the foundation of a Hungarian Royal University in 1912, the same year when the one in Bratislava was founded. The new university was created out of the three academic sections (today we would call them faculties) of the College: theology, law, and humanities, and it was also supplemented by a medical school, whose teaching function

was based on the town's general hospital.

Education began at the four faculties in September 1914. Some of the faculties, including the Faculty of Arts, were located in the buildings of the Reformed College for another twenty years. The Faculty of Medicine was the first to receive an independent site, when, during World War I, the construction of the university hospital began on a secluded, wooded ground of 116 hectares. There were almost a thousand people working at the site, most of them prisoners of war. Charles IV, the last king of Hungary, opened the main building of the medical school in 1918, and the medical campus was completed in 1927. The new high-rise building, which houses departments of theoretical medicine, was erected in 1973.

Meanwhile, from 1921 the University was named after István Tisza, former prime minister of Hungary. In May 1932 another important improvement took place when the magnificent Main Building of the University – “the most beautiful university building in Central Europe” – was finished. The building, which was the largest in the city, was erected in eclectic and neobaroque style; especially impressive is the main hall and its glass roof at 29 meters from the floor. With the completion of the building, university departments and faculties have become physically independent from their intellectual ancestor, the Reformed College. The Main Building also houses the University Library, which, with more than 6 million items, is the second largest library in the country.

The end of World War II and the subsequent communist turn meant other profound changes in the life of the University. In 1949 the Faculty of Natural Sciences was formed, and twenty years later most of its departments moved to a new building (the Chemistry building, situated just northwest from the Main Building) erected in 1970.

1949 - 2000

In 1949/50 the University was restructured. The Faculty of Theology was returned to the Reformed College, the Faculty of Medicine became an independent university, the Faculty of Law was discontinued, and several excellent teachers and professors were expelled from the University.



The departments of English, French, Italian, German, and Classical Philology were closed down; on the other hand, the Department of Russian Philology expanded dramatically. The teaching of western languages was restarted only after 1956 (with the exception of Italian,

which was re-implemented in the first half of the 1990's). In 1952 the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Natural Sciences were united as Lajos Kossuth University. The newly formed universities - the Medical University, the University of Agriculture and Lajos Kossuth University - continued to co-exist as three separate institutions up until 2000, when the disjointed former University of Debrecen was once again united.

2000 - present

On January 1, 2000, the colleges and universities of Hajdú-Bihar County were united, and, as a result, the University of Debrecen came into being with five university and three college level faculties and with a student population of 20,000. The three large universities of Debrecen that entered this union included the University of Agriculture, Lajos Kossuth University (with the university-level faculties of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Institute of Economic Studies and Business Administration, Institute of Law as well as college-level Faculty of Engineering) and the Medical University. Further faculties entered on an independent basis: the college-level Conservatory of Debrecen, schools of the University in Hajdúböszörmény and Nyíregyháza. Three of the so-called academic "institutes" (Dentistry, Law and Pharmacy) have already reached the rank and status of faculty.



By the act CCIII, 2013 the organizational structure of the UD was changed. From January 1, 2014 the centres of the university ceased to exist and some of the institutional units were reorganized under new names.

Finally, we have to mention the Debrecen Summer School, which is also located on the campus, although technically independent from the university. The School was founded in 1927 and since then it has grown to be one of the largest Hungarian institutions for teaching Hungarian culture and Hungarian as a foreign language. Courses are offered on several levels and in every season, attracting hundreds of students each year.

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