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**Annual Activity Report of
Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University
for 2025**

Almaty – 2025

Development Program 2024–2028

By Resolution No. 682 of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated 16 August 2023, the Development Program for 2024–2028 was approved. The objective of the Program is to strengthen the position of Asfendiyarov Kazakh National Medical University (hereinafter – KazNMU, the University) as a research-driven university through the accelerated translation of research outcomes into clinical practice and the educational process.

To achieve this objective, four strategic goals and nineteen target indicators were defined. The first phase of the Development Program implementation (2024–2025) has been successfully completed. The second phase covers the period from 2026 to 2028.

All goals, objectives, and target indicators of the Development Program are implemented annually through the University’s Operational Plans.

Reference:

During the first phase of the Development Program, the Operational Plan for 2024 was developed and implemented, covering 474 activities. The Operational Plan for 2025 included 342 activities, of which 336 were successfully completed. As of today, the Operational Plan for 2026 has been developed as part of the second phase of the Development Program.

Organisational Structure

The corporate structure of KazNMU corresponds to the modern model of integration of education, science, and clinical practice and enables the University to achieve its strategic objectives.

KazNMU includes five research institutes, the Aksai University Clinics, the Center for Internal Diseases, the Primary Health Care and Diagnostics Center, and a dental unit. The University operates across 180 clinical training bases.

KazNMU is one of the oldest universities in the country, founded in 1930. Its core activities include education, research, and clinical practice. The University operates nine academic buildings with a total area of 53,779.4 square meters.

Educational Activities

The overall staff coverage rate of the University is 90%, including: academic staff – 99%, research staff – 98%, medical staff – 84%, and administrative and support staff – 78%.

The academic staff of KazNMU is staffed at 99%, with 46% holding academic degrees. The proportion of academic staff under the age of 45 is 42%, while those aged 46 and above account for 58%, indicating a balanced succession and continuity of academic and research personnel. Women represent 76% of the academic staff, including 64% of department heads.

Each year, more than 35% of academic staff undergo professional development funded by the University. In 2025, 13 faculty members participated in international academic mobility programs, including the “Bolashak” scholarship and the “500 Scholars” program. According to the decision of the Republican Commission on Training Specialists Abroad dated 24 December 2025, two faculty members were awarded the Bolashak international scholarship, while three faculty members received scholarships for international research internships.

In 2025, 41 faculty members under the age of 45 completed international internships. A total of 523 individuals completed professional development programs, including 233 in subject-specific disciplines and 290 in pedagogical competencies.

KazNMU is proud of the winners of national competitions organized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2025:

- “Best University Lecturer – 2025”: K.A. Zhaparkulova and S.E. Mombekov;
- “Best Researcher – 2025”: L.K. Kosherbayeva.

In the “Best in Profession” competition organized by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2025, K.S. Zhakipbekov was recognized as “Best Researcher in Healthcare”, and K.K. Kozhanova as “Best Medical University Lecturer”.

Rankings and Accreditation

KazNMU became the first medical university in the country to be included in the QS World University Rankings, ranked in the 1001–1200 band. The University is also ranked in QS Asia University Rankings (371), QS Central Asia (24), QS World University Rankings by Subject (Medicine: 701–850), and QS Sustainability (1501+). In the QS Stars Rating System, KazNMU was awarded four stars.

At the national level, KazNMU actively participates in higher education rankings. Three educational programs—General Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology—ranked first in the Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs ranking.

KazNMU maintains annual membership in the League of Academic Integrity.

In the National Ranking of Demand for Universities of the Republic of Kazakhstan – 2025 (IAAR), KazNMU was recognized as the leading medical university and ranked first in the institutional ranking for Master’s and Doctoral programs in Healthcare and Social Services (Medicine).

In May 2025, the University successfully passed a certification audit for compliance with the international quality management standard ISO 9001:2016.

Academic Programs and Student Enrollment

KazNMU offers academic programs across three main areas: Healthcare, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Technology, and Business and Management.

In the 2025–2026 academic year, total student enrollment increased by 9%.

The University delivers education through 86 academic programs, including five joint programs and five dual-degree programs. In 2025, an agreement was signed with

KBTU to develop a joint Executive MBA program titled “EMBA in AI and Healthcare Management”.

Digitalisation of Education

KazNMU has developed its own “Digital Services Center” portal, which provides high-quality digital services based on the “one-stop-shop” principle. In digital format, 2,868 enrollments were processed for the summer semester, 5,900 enrollments for professional development, certification courses, and seminars, and 2,662 registrations for psychometric testing.

The educational process has been automated and digitized through the implementation of nine software systems and eight electronic services. The University has developed and implemented solutions such as an electronic student placement and queue management system, a pilot project for written electronic examinations, a Local Bioethics Committee platform, online internship application services, automated GPA certification, digital clearance procedures, an event management website, and the medical terminology digital service medtermin.kz.

A dedicated software system for residency entrance examinations was introduced, featuring secure examination procedures, data encryption and decryption, independent double-blind assessment by experts, electronic signature validation, automated score calculation, electronic ranking, digital appeals processing, and transparent access to evaluation criteria. This system significantly enhanced transparency, reduced corruption risks, and lowered the administrative burden on admissions committees.

In summer 2025, the system was used for admissions to 46 residency programs, with 972 applicants participating in the digital entrance examination.

Research and Innovation Activities

The University has demonstrated steady growth in research output. The number of publications indexed in Scopus increased from 137 in 2021 to 400 in 2025. At the same time, citation activity continues to rise, exceeding 28,300 citations in 2025.

These results were achieved through the establishment of the Science and Technology Park and the introduction of financial incentive mechanisms to stimulate publication activity. In 2025, funding allocated to support publication activity increased by 49% compared to 2024.

A significant quality indicator is the high proportion of publications in leading international journals. Over the period from 2021 to 2025, 516 articles were published in Q1 journals and 339 articles in Q2 journals, reflecting the strong research capacity and international visibility of the University.

According to the Kazakh National H-index Ranking 2025, KazNMU ranked 4th among all universities in Kazakhstan and was classified among the “Leaders of Scientific Potential”, confirming the sustainable development of its research ecosystem.

In 2025, the University implemented externally funded research projects with a total value of approximately KZT 1,417.5 million, representing a 37.4% increase compared to 2024. These included grants from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as projects supported by the Ministry of Health under targeted funding programs.

In 2025, the University launched a targeted funding project of the Ministry of Health entitled “Epigenetics and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases in Kazakhstan: A Personalized Approach and Biological Age Prediction” (BR27304987).

KazNMU also supports internally funded research initiatives. In 2025, approximately KZT 144.3 million was allocated to the implementation of 13 internal research projects.

Patent activity continues to demonstrate positive dynamics. In 2025, the number of patents for utility models and inventions increased by 1.6 times compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 28 patents.

Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation

In the Address to the Nation of Kazakhstan on 8 September 2025, the President emphasized that the world has entered the era of artificial intelligence, which is transforming all spheres of life. The development of artificial intelligence was defined as a strategic priority for Kazakhstan, with the goal of becoming a fully digital state through large-scale AI implementation and comprehensive digitalisation.

In line with this national strategic agenda, KazNMU has implemented several AI-driven initiatives:

- 1) AnaMed Clinical Exam Score Audit – an AI-based system designed to enhance transparency and trust in admissions procedures for medical programs while reducing administrative and managerial costs during examination campaigns.
- 2) Virtual Microbiology Lab – a virtual laboratory enabling students to master core microbiological research methods through interactive simulations. The platform models real laboratory processes, from slide preparation and staining techniques to microscopic and culture-based result visualization, ensuring safe and effective practical training.
- 3) ANaMed Info AI Assistant – a digital assistant providing rapid access to information from the KazNMU knowledge base for students and faculty members.

Science and Technology Park and Commercialisation

Following the directive of the President of Kazakhstan, a Science and Technology Park (Technopark) was established and is operating successfully at KazNMU. The Technopark consolidates all research units of the University, including the Department of Science and the B. Atchabarov Research Institute, which comprises seven laboratories and two research centers.

The Technopark supports the full innovation cycle—from idea generation to the production of finished products—making it attractive to investors and young researchers seeking opportunities to commercialise research-based startups.

A notable example includes projects developed by the Center for Pharmacy and Pharmacology. In collaboration with a domestic manufacturer, a pilot production facility was established for cosmetic products. Together with the company Fitoleum, production of a rosehip flower-based cream was launched, which is currently available on the market via the Kaspi.kz platform.

Another project, “Commercialisation of Competitive Functional Fermented Dairy Products”, participated in the national Commercialisation Reactor and received grant funding for the 2024–2026 period. In 2025, local production of functional fermented dairy products—including yogurt, ayran, kefir, sour cream, and cottage cheese—was launched in partnership with KazNMU and Anadel LLP.

AI Hackathon and Innovation Ecosystem

On 4–5 May 2025, KazNMU hosted the ANaMed AI Challenge Hackathon as part of the international ANaMed Forum – New Generation 2025, dedicated to artificial intelligence in medicine.

More than 40 applications were submitted by students, physicians, young researchers, and school students. Following the selection process, nine AI projects advanced to the final stage. These projects focused on digitalisation, AI development in Kazakhstan, and improving quality of life for people with special needs.

The most successful projects were granted resident status at the KazNMU Science and Technology Park, including:

- SOILE AI
- Smart Cane
- NeuroGuard AI
- Digital Prenatal School
- HER2 AI Lab

These projects receive institutional support from KazNMU in the form of expert mentoring, access to infrastructure, incubation and acceleration services, and opportunities for further participation in the ANaMed AI Challenge 2026.

Clinical Activities

KazNMU operates three university clinics, including pediatric and adult inpatient facilities and an outpatient clinic, ensuring a comprehensive approach to medical education. The availability of clinics with different profiles and levels of care enables effective implementation of educational programs, development of practical skills among students, and integration of education, research, and clinical practice.

During the reporting period, the number of treated patients in the University Clinic and affiliated organizations increased by 6%, while the number of implemented clinical innovations grew by 26% compared to 2024.

In 2025, the University Clinic became the first in Kazakhstan to apply targeted therapy with Exondys for a mutation associated with West syndrome caused by a heterozygous CYFIP2 mutation. In addition, with the support of the “Qazaqstan Halqyna” Public Foundation and the Ministry of Health, 304 corneal transplantations were performed over the past three years, including 79 procedures in 2025. Additional corneal transplantations were carried out for two adult patients and 36 pediatric patients.

In 2025, the total number of clinical training bases increased by 7.8% compared to 2024, driven by the expansion of partnerships with organizations providing specialized and high-technology medical care. The number of outpatient clinical bases increased by 2.7%.

These indicators demonstrate improved access to specialized and high-technology medical services, more efficient use of clinical infrastructure and human resources, and the adoption of modern diagnostic and treatment methods.



Continuing Professional Education

Continuing professional education for medical and pharmaceutical professionals is delivered through the Institute of Continuing Professional Education. In 2025, a total of 5,900 participants completed training programs, including 5,467 on a fee-based basis and 433 through funded programs. Among them, 308 were KazNMU academic staff and 125 were healthcare practitioners.

General practitioners were trained across four clinical modules, including 32 physicians from Almaty and Zhambyl regions, as well as 45 faculty members from medical colleges in Almaty and Shymkent.

Student Support

The University hosts more than 80 student organizations. Each year, financial and social support is provided to over 1,000 students from socially vulnerable groups, including tuition fee discounts, assistance with meals, clothing, and footwear, and free accommodation in dormitories.

KazNMU operates eight dormitories and a newly commissioned Dormitory No. 9 with 420 beds (developed under a public-private partnership), bringing the total accommodation capacity to 3,604 beds.

In October 2025, subject-based academic competitions and a sports friendship spartakiad for medical students of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were held. KazNMU students achieved first place in Dentistry, second place in Surgery, and also demonstrated strong performance in chess and table tennis.

In 2025, the Student Service Center was established to provide transparent, accessible, and high-quality services based on the “one-stop-shop” principle, covering academic affairs, accommodation, social support, tuition payments, career development, student life, and access to IT systems.

Financial Performance

By the end of 2025, the University's income-to-expenditure ratio reached 1.04, meeting the planned target value. This result confirms the financial sustainability of the University and balanced management of revenues and expenditures.

During the reporting year, four key institutional objectives were achieved, including:

- 1) Improvement of residency entrance examinations through a weighted assessment model, with 25% of the admission score allocated to results of the written electronic examination conducted via the Digital Services Center platform.
- 2) Increased institutional openness and accessibility through the establishment of the Student Service Center.
- 3) Completion of all planned renovation works in academic buildings and dormitories.
- 4) Implementation of AI technologies in medical education, including the deployment of two core systems:
 - ANaMed Info AI Assistant;
 - AnaMed Clinical Exam Score Audit;
 - Virtuale Microbiology Lab.