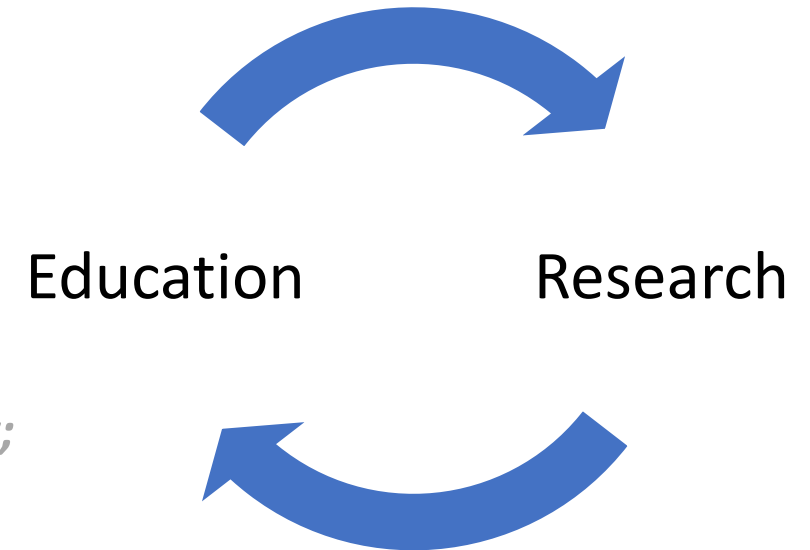

Welcome note and general introduction

dr Jacek Kaczmarek
Medical University of Gdańsk

Introductory remarks

- **Science is borderless, transnational by nature**
- **Education is valued around the globe:**
 - *personal growth (talents, passion, sense of achievement);*
 - *mission to serve – those in need, the community, humanity;*
 - *position / prestige / pride / power / wealth / comfort*
- **Studies abroad:**
 - *Easier with increasing wealth, increased people's mobility, communication technology (availability of information, facilitated contact and recruitment, more efficient and attractive teaching, including online and hybrid programmes)*
 - *Hampered by pandemic, financial instability, conflicts, terrorism, racism and xenophobia*



Who are international alumni? - #1

- International graduates who returned/moved outside the country of their studies (e.g. Poland) - *incoming students*
- Native graduates who migrated abroad (e.g. out of Poland) - *outgoing graduates*
- Probably also international graduates who stayed in the country of their studies (e.g. Poland)?

But not native graduates who stayed in their home country (e.g. Poland).

Who are international alumni? - #2

- Graduates from an entire study programme (Bachelor, Master or Doctoral level)?

OR

- Graduates from a HEI abroad, who completed part of their studies (e.g. at least 1 year of studies) at a given University (e.g. in Poland)? – *should we consider incoming mobility students (e.g. ERASMUS) our international alumni after they graduate from their home University?*

International alumni or just alumni?

- **How about thinking of all the alumni together? Does it make sense?**
- **Or rather in cohorts by field of study? Or by their place of residence – country/region chapters?**
- **How integrated would they all be? How integrated would they wish and be able to become?**
 - **Language factor – common vs. separate study programmes; mixed study groups; mixed student research groups (extracurricular), etc.**
 - **Campus life factor – integrating effect of sports, culture, charity, social projects, etc.**
- **How to handle alumni relations successfully?**

Who are international alumni? - #3

- **A varied population:**
 - **Nationality / ethnicity / language**
 - **Culture / customs / religion**
 - **Perception of the University and teachers**
 - **Change in social status resulting from the received education**
 - **Profession**
 - **Needs and expectations**
 - **Level of commitment**
- **United by:**
 - **Shared experience of friendship and partnership in the prime-time years of their lives**
 - **Several year-exposure to the same University values, education, research, charity, etc.**
 - **Shared exposure to the same culture, history and language of the country of their University**

Discours de la méthode.
René Descartes, 1637

„Cogito, ergo sum”

* * * * *

Descartes' error. Emotion, reason and the human brain.
Antonio R. Damasio, 1994

Although often underestimated, emotions play a critical role in human behaviour and choices.

What makes int'l alumni keep in touch with the Uni? - #1

POSITIVE EMOTIONS – SATISFACTION WITH THE STUDIES?

- The Education → *Reputation, recognition, competences, employability.*
- The Campus → *Safe and comfortable living and studying; culture, sports and networking at hand.*
- The Bonds and Fun → *Experience of friendship, love and joy at the prime-time years of life*
- The Environment → *Welcoming, inclusive, tolerant, friendly, supportive people / city / country*
 - There are no satisfied alumni without satisfied students...
 - Building alumni relations starts during recruitment...
 - Everything matters, but attitudes and relations within and outside the Uni seem fundamental...

What makes int'l alumni keep in touch with the Uni? - #2

POSITIVE EMOTIONS – BONDS AFTER GRADUATION?

- Inclusion? → *Research, teaching, mentoring, promotion, recruitment, advisory role.*
- Acknowledgement? → *University proudly communicates the alumni's achievements and progress within and outside the academic community*
- Support to the University? → *Donations, fund-raising, facilitation of University-industry liaisons; contribution to student research fund or other student-targeted initiatives*



Thank you!