

THE TWENTY-YEAR RISE OF THE FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES OF UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR

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INTRODUCTION

In post-war Herzegovina, the health services were significantly devastated and there was a great need for recovery and progress. The Faculty of Medicine was established in 1997 in Mostar. At the same time, in order to raise the level of health care, there was a need to educate nurses and other health workers. In accordance with the Munich Declaration and the Bologna Process, the Governing Board of the University of Mostar adopted a Decision on the establishment of the Health School, which began in October 2000 with the Study of Nursing, with the Study of Physiotherapy in 2001, and with the Study of Radiological Technology in 2002. We tried to make the programs in accordance with the programs of Health Schools in Zagreb, Sarajevo and Maribor, so that students could work in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H), Croatia and the European Union after finishing their education in Mostar. Using the experience from the Faculty of Medicine, and the fact that most of the subjects were taught by visiting professors from Sarajevo, Zagreb, Split and Osijek, we introduced classes in shifts from the beginning, ie block teaching, which allows continuous learning. In addition to the three-year professional Study of Nursing, in 2003 the four-year university Study of Nursing also began. Since 2005, students in all studies have been enrolling in undergraduate university studies according to a new curriculum adapted to the Bologna Process. The Study of Sanitary Engineering and the Study of Midwifery were established in 2011 and 2014, respectively. The new building of the Faculty of Health Studies (FZS) on Bijeli brijeg, with modern space and equipment, which, along with the Faculty of Medicine and the University Clinical Hospital, makes up a modern biomedical center in Mostar, was completed in 2009 (Šimić 2016).

In addition to being the most numerous and important health professionals, nurses and technicians form a key link in the fight for human health in the world. According to the statistics of the World Health Organization, in the health care of most countries, nurses and midwives make up about 80% of qualified medical staff, and are involved in all life stages of human life. In fact, as much as they are numerical as professional, they are a powerful force that is introducing the changes needed

to achieve the goal of 'health for all people' in the 21st century. Their scope of work covers a wide range of health services and is the foundation on which more or less most medical teams are based. They work in teams from prevention, enlightenment to the last phase of human life. In the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the combination of previous experiences with new achievements of the European Union is necessary, and this is done by the Faculty of Health Studies of the University of Mostar. Medical science is advancing more and more day by day, which means that doctors are constantly discovering new knowledge, entering previously unknown spheres. Therefore, what is foreseeable and what is already happening, is that the medical profession leaves certain activities to nurses and technicians (Lončar 2017).

In the process of continuous struggle for health, prevention and treatment, the role of a highly educated health worker is becoming increasingly important and he is certainly becoming an irreplaceable link in the process. The goal of our faculty is to educate the best possible health workers who, in addition to quality practical work, will gradually take over our teaching (Babić et al. 2017).

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Since 2017, in addition to the already existing undergraduate and graduate (master's) studies at the FZS, a doctoral postgraduate study was also initiated. The third cycle, the postgraduate doctoral degree, is intended for health professionals who intend to pursue an academic career in health studies. The third cycle lasts for three years and totals 180 ECTS points. It includes the study of evidence-based advanced health practices, with the acquisition of the ability to conduct independent research that encourages abstract thinking and critical analysis, and with the understanding and adaptation of scientific knowledge. The most important goal of the doctoral study program is to train students for scientific and clinical research, preparation for participation in faculty work, as well as for the career of teachers at the university with the possibility of designing modern innovative concepts and approaches to improve the quality of life of individuals,

organizations and society. A doctorate in health sciences is required for an academic career as a teacher at health care faculties.

The result of the introduction of postgraduate studies will be the achievement of an academic degree that provides health professionals with academic certificates whose value will be equal to the certificates of their colleagues from other faculties who complete postgraduate doctoral studies. We also must not forget that no other human activity has contributed so much to an individual living better and being healthier than science has done. Modern science is the source of all objective human well-being. Health and medicine have made great progress and educating people for health professions simply requires more learning, more materials and thus the larger duration of training. In short, all participants in human health care are getting more burdened and their work is becoming more complex; there is a need for teamwork and division of tasks and specialties into as many people as possible. Specifically, the organization of clinical trials is directed towards nurses, laboratory technology towards appropriate health professions, physical medicine towards physiotherapists, etc., and this means not only more work, but also more complex work (Marušić 2015). In 2020, our faculty will have enrolled the third generation of doctoral students, and we already have several of our doctoral students who are about to defend their doctorates.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

The importance of science

Science has always existed, it is as old as life. Some discoveries are truly revolutionary: fire, letter, wheel, press... Today we would say - nothing easier. It seems to us that everything has already been invented. Well, it was then too. Life worked. Innate curiosity, associated with the need to make life easier and simpler, made man invent bread, penicillin (Ostojić 2017).

Science is a systematized and argumented sum of knowledge in a certain historical period about an objective reality, which was reached through the conscious application of objective research. It is the unity of discovery and evidence, method and system, research and exposition. Furthermore, it is objective, systematized and argument-based knowledge of laws, facts, phenomena and their probable causes, acquired and verified by exact observation, organized experiments and correct thinking. Science should be practiced by all students, especially students of biomedical and nursing or health faculties. This, primarily for the fact that it is necessary to get to know, adopt and respect the scientific way of thinking. And when you graduate from the Faculty of Health Studies, that need is simply natural. And it is not the privilege of only the ambitious and those who tomorrow want to be teachers at the university from which they graduated, but the obligation of all, even

those who want to be "only successful practitioners and professionals." In a desire for the greatest possible range of knowledge and the possibility of providing the highest quality health care, and in order to educate students and teaching staff, science at the Faculty of Health Studies is an unquestionable need and obligation (Sinanović & Babić 2016). Having your own ideas to research and connecting with the real sector just as the Faculty of Health Studies of the University of Mostar does in cooperation with the University Clinical Hospital Mostar and to have a leading role in that, is extremely important. Those scientists who find a middle ground between these two approaches will be at an advantage in various types of evaluations. And indeed, the lives of scientists in the 21st century have changed a lot compared to the scientists of the 20th century (Tomić 2018).

Scientific integrity is not limited to some sciences, but is part of every scientific and professional field, including the health professions. There are data that some forms of dishonest behavior are less common in nursing, where the frequency of retractions of published articles is lower than in other areas, but this does not mean that in research in the health professions we should not worry about responsible research, as in providing an environment for responsible research both in collaborative research and in the development of educational activities to strengthen research responsibility. As in other areas, researchers in the health professions should adhere to the principles of responsible research, as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Responsibility (Marušić 2019).

Scientific research work

In the last fifty years, there have been dramatic changes in all segments of the biomedical sciences, including the health sciences: nursing, radiological technology, physiotherapy, sanitary engineering, midwifery, etc. (Mimica et al. 2015). In accordance with its strategy, the Faculty has been engaged in scientific research all the time, and our teachers and students have so far participated in several international scientific research projects. In recent years, several different symposia have been organized by teachers and students from all five fields of our faculty. It is important to point out that our teachers, assistants and students at all these symposia had an important active role, which was often the leading one because they presented their scientific and professional papers very successfully. In recent years, they have also actively participated in regional, European and world congresses and published numerous papers in highly indexed journals. The Faculty of Health Studies also became a co-organizer of the international symposium Mostar Psychiatric Saturday, which became the beacon of Mostar psychiatric science (Babić 2014). We will quote the famous scientist professor Matko Marušić about the importance of scientific research: "And you, my dear ones, whatever

way (quo vadis) you go, remember... only knowledge protects you from failure. It opens even the heaviest locks for you. Learn and love your job. Write papers, because knowledge is still valuable, it opens horizons for you, which will provide you with what you want most: to succeed in your life.“ (Marušić 2015).

Health Gazette

We publish the electronic journal of the Faculty of Health Studies of the University of Mostar, under the name Health Gazette, with the aim and hope that the innate and professional curiosity of our students will be stimulated to scientific thinking and scientific research, in the field they have chosen for their life vocation. The journal provides a space that teachers and associates will use to publish their scientific research papers, and at the same time, encourages our students. A scientific journal is defined as a periodical of scientific publications whose purpose is to follow current scientific research achievements and improve science. The journal mostly specializes in a particular field of science, in our case health and medicine (Ostojić 2017).

In the past five years, we have published 112 papers involving 306 authors and co-authors from seven countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Italy and Kazakhstan). Most of the published papers are original scientific papers, but also review, professional, case reports, essays, book reviews. Our journal is already indexed in three databases and our goal is to raise its level to as high as possible. And that is our end goal.

CONCLUSION

In its twenty years of existence, The Faculty of Health Studies has recorded a great rise and progress. From a small school, it became a respectable faculty at the University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region. With all three cycles of teaching (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate - doctoral) it provides our students with top education and great opportunities for learning and advancement. We will strive to continue this ascent, to maintain a high level of teaching quality, all with the aim of better education of our students who will help sick people in practice tomorrow, and some of them will be teachers and teach new

generations of students. Our current and future goal is to deal with real science, not pseudoscience, and we want to help our students to be better experts and scientists upon graduation. As part of this, we are fighting and we want a regional approach and quality cooperation with related faculties in the region, Europe and the world.

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Ivan Vasilj: concept of the paper, writing the manuscript; participated in the final revision of the manuscript and approved it.

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