P1 Student’s background, age and time to thesis proposal in new PhD program in Kinesiology

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The new PhD program at the Faculty of Kinesiology in Zagreb started in 2015. Since then, two new generations were enrolled. We investigated the background of the enrolled students, gender, age, as well as differences in time to PhD proposal defense.

The background data, as well as age and the grades at their graduate study were analyzed for 114 students enrolled in 2015 and 2017.

Mean age at the enrollment was 32±7.8y, (24-55y), 53%M, 47%F; mean grade at graduate study 4.01±0.41. 68% of the students graduated in kinesiology master. The second group were medical doctors (18%), physiotherapy master (4%), economy/business (4%) and others (5%) (one technical field, one arts etc., but employed in sport). ANOVA showed differences in age at enrollment according to the background (F(4.109)=8.323;p<0.001), with kinesiology majors being the youngest (30.46y;0.79SE), MDs (37.71y;1.52SE), and economy background the oldest (42.25y;3.50SE). In two largest groups, the MDs needed the shorter time to PhD topic defense than kinesiology majors (17.1mth/19.5mth; Mann-W:p<0.05) and no gender differences.

Surprisingly the mean age of the PhD students was high, but explainable with the fact that Croatian students have to pay the study themselves while working elsewhere. The new program is much more flexible and enables the student to specialize early into the scientific field (sport science, kinesitherapy, motor control, leisure, biomedicine of sport, biomechanics or psychology/sociology of sport) which increased the interest from the graduates in fields other than kinesiology. The medical doctors performed a bit better in the beginning of the program, but in future it would be interesting to follow the completion rates.
P2 PhD Programme in Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology: Bridging the gap between basic science and clinical investigation

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The PhD Programme in Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (PDFTEC) is a joint collaborative programme between three faculties of the University of Porto (Medicine, Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences Institute), which have come together as a Center for Drug Discovery and Innovative Medicines (MedInUP). The main purpose of this programme is to fill a gap in advanced training in Portugal (and abroad) concerning the study of all phases of drug development towards clinical applications, from the characterization of molecular targets, to the actions in animal models (both in vitro and in vivo) and clinical trials. The intended learning outcomes of the PDFTEC are in agreement with the guidelines for PhD education in Europe stated in the document endorsed by ORPHEUS/AMSE/WFME Task Force in 2012 “Standards for PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in Europe”. The specific outcomes meet the standards for the following qualifications: “BPS Diploma in Advanced Pharmacology” of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS); “Fachpharmakologe” or “Fachtoxikologe” of the German Pharmacological Society (DGPT, Deutsche Gesellschaft für experimentelle und klinische Pharmakologie und Toxikologie); “European Registered Toxicologist” of the Association of European Toxicologists and European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX); competence in Pharmaceutical Medicine and medical consultant of Clinical Pharmacology of national and international physician specialty boards. The study plan includes a taught course (30 ECTS) followed by dissertation work (210 ECTS). Three publications in international journals are required to complete the Thesis. Supported by FCT (UID/BIM/4308/2016) and by FSE on behalf of NORTE2020 (NORTE-69-2015-15 – PhD Programmes). In memoriam Daniel Moura.
P3 Nurses’ attitude towards PhD research in nutrition

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**Background:** The education in nursing aims at implementing modern theoretical knowledge and techniques in practice. Nutrition training requires extended forms of study and creative approach. Relevantly designed for nursing doctoral programs in nutrition can fill the gap between theory and practice in the nursing profession and meet the needs of today's patient and clinical settings.

**Aim of the study:** to evaluate attitudes towards research and development of doctoral thesis in nutrition among nurses and undergraduate nursing students at the Faculty of Medicine and Lozenetz Hospital, Sofia, Bulgaria.

**Methods:** An anonymous, questionnaire-based study among 40 professional nurses and undergraduate nursing students from the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University and “Lozenetz” Hospital was conducted during the first semester of 2017/2018 academic year. The questionnaire provides information about the interest in nutrition studies, motivation for research and attitudes toward PhD program in nutrition.

**Results:** More than half of nurses and nursing students (60.00%) confirm the necessity of a PhD program specifically designed for nurses but only 35.0% express an interest in developing a PhD thesis. Most of respondents (60.0%) need advanced knowledge and skills for professional communication of healthy nutrition with patients. Almost all of the participants (90.0%) perceive their role as “significant” for influencing nutrition of patients in hospital and after the discharge from the hospital and are more interested in diet therapy but not in general nutrition.

**Conclusion:** Although there is an interest among nurses in extending nutrition knowledge, the development of a nutrition program for PhDs especially for nurses requires more creativity and relevance to the nursing background.
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) was founded 50 years ago with focus on research. The Faculty of Medicine holds the Degrees in Medicine and Nursing, while sharing the Degrees of Biochemistry and Human Nutrition with the Faculty of Sciences. The Faculty offers robust postgraduate MSc and PhD Programmes in Health Sciences and Biomedicine for preparing versatile and trans-disciplinary scientists and providing them with the necessary tools for developing research and innovation at the interface of various health-related disciplines.

The PhD Programmes, which are now part of UAM Multidisciplinary Doctoral School, cover a large number of areas from bench to bedside, from basics to clinics, from molecular biology to epidemiology. Over 1,200 PhD students are currently enrolled in 1) Molecular Biosciences; 2) Neuroscience; 3) Microbiology; 4) Pharmacology and Physiology; 5) Medicine and Surgery, including a research line in Nursing; or, 6) Epidemiology and Public Health Programmes, who closely collaborate with University Hospitals or other first line research institutions to provide up-to-date multidisciplinary training.

The Programmes display their own particularities, but they ultimately share the common goal of preparing well-trained basic and clinical researchers through activities such as seminars and specialized theoretical and practical courses, or by improving the international dimension of our trainees. This year for the first time, the diversity and commonality of our health-centred PhD Programmes has been revealed in the 1st PhD Research Symposium in Health Sciences and Biomedicine, an event designed to strengthen the commitment of our Programmes to broaden collaborative strategies in education and research.
The concept of structured doctoral studies in biomedicine at the Medical Faculty Foca, University of East Sarajevo, BiH

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New doctoral studies in biomedical sciences at the Medical Faculty Foca, University of East Sarajevo are organized according to Bologna recommendations with 180 ECTS and three generations of students have already been enrolled. The program is focused on three modules: molecular medicine, clinical medicine and public health. It gives the opportunity for independent research projects in clinical settings like university hospital and basic environments such molecular genetics, cell biology, immunology and pharmacology. The whole curriculum is based on lectures and practical courses, seminars, attendance to conferences, summer schools and basic research program in a newly established Center for Biomedical Sciences. The Center, which is modernly equipped, is a base for 5 scientific projects in the field of stem cells, nanomedicine, tumor immunotherapy, chronic inflammation and experimental pharmacology. The cornerstone of the doctoral experience is the basic research that all students undertake whatever field they choose which is being upgraded by their stay in international research centers. The quality of doctoral studies is ensured by very competent mentors, some of which are from universities in Serbia. Through PhD program our students gain general, specific and analytic skills, which helps them to take responsibility for planning and carrying out their PhD theses. The program is based on high international standard, and is in accordance with recognized scientific and ethical principles. The first publications in internationally recognized scientific journals promise that the PhD concept is well-founded and its fruits are expected in near future.
The Medical University of Lublin offers doctoral studies in medicine, dentistry, medical biology, health sciences, pharmacy scientific disciplines. Doctoral studies last 4 years. Their goal is to get professional, teaching and scientific competences. Within the framework of the studies, the doctoral student is obliged to implement: obligatory subjects, facultative subjects developing professional skills, facultative subjects developing teaching skills, professional practice, scientific work carried out under the supervision of a scientific supervisor/promoter and other non-formal activities (scientific conferences, symposia, open lectures, conventions, etc.).

Doctoral students deepen their knowledge in a chosen scientific discipline, conduct research and achieve competences to embark on a doctorate. There is recruitment path for candidates pursuing research projects in the framework of grants which are financed externally by National Science Centre or National Centre for Research and Development. Realization of scientific projects gives a possibility to make contact with the best scientist in the world. It is the occasion to learn new facts and talk about good practices in the fields of: scientific projects management, team building or technology transfer. It is a chance to implement innovative solutions and results of research, as well as prestige and recognition in the international arena.

Doctoral studies end with the defense of the dissertation which allows to obtain a PhD degree.

The graduate of the doctoral studies will be uses knowledge from various disciplines of science to create creative identification, formulation and innovative solving of complex problems or to perform research tasks of an interdisciplinary nature.

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Since 2008, the PhD students of the Faculty of Medicine, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (FMTSU) are required to publish at least one of the 3 obligatory scientific papers on the subject of the thesis in the peer-reviewed journal with impact factor.

Aim. The number of papers with citations published by FMTSU PhD students and their ratio to the total number of works published on behalf of TSU in the journals indexed in Scopus, PubMed and Web of Science (WoS) in 2009-2017 were studied.

Methods. The “advanced search” was limited to “2009-2017”, “Tbilisi State University”, “Medicine”. The students’ papers were searched manually.

Results. Number of TSU papers: 233 (791 citations) in Scopus; 512 (citations N/A) in PubMed; 95 (536 citations) in WoS. Number of FMTSU PhD students papers: 136 (58%) [164 (21%) citations] in Scopus; 134 (26%) [citations N/A] in PubMed; 62 (65%) papers [107 (20%) citations] in WoS.

Discussion/conclusion. The different data of different databases is caused by varied requirements and structures, though all indexed journals meet high standards. The results show that the PhD students’ research is an important "drive" for the University’s research in the field of medicine. However, the number of the publications, as well as citations is small. We suppose that, like many European countries, requiring publishing two papers in peer-reviewed journal with impact factor will increase the number of PhD students’ publications in the ranking scientific databases. However, this requirement should be implemented in parallel with permanent improvement of the research capacity.
This survey was carried out within the scope of a Special Study Modules entitled “PhD Training in Medical Sciences” by a group of medical students in DEU. The purpose of the survey was to investigate the graduates of health sciences who have successfully completed their PhD training in terms of the levels of satisfaction and the status of their career.

The investigation was designed as a cross-sectional study. We reached, via e-mail, 166 PhD graduates who had graduated from DEU Graduate School of Health Sciences between 1991 and 2002 from 12 different departments. The survey included 27 questions, which were prepared in the light of the existing literature.

Among the 166 PhD graduates, 55 (30%) responded. Through this survey, perception of PhD students on supervisors’ scientific and educational abilities, opinions on PhD training, productivity of PhD training, number of articles published, their position and related satisfaction levels after graduation were investigated. According to the results, more than half of the graduates (52.7%) are well satisfied with the education they had completed. We found that 94.5% of graduates prefer academic positions, which is in line with the high rate of growth of Universities in Turkey. Interestingly, 64.8% sustains their communication with their supervisors after graduation.

Dokuz Eylül University Graduate School of Health Sciences was awarded the ORPHEUS label in 2014. In a further study, it may also be interesting to extend this survey to include those PhD’s who graduated with the ORPHEUS standards.

Key Words: PhD Education in Health Sciences, Career Profiles of PhD Graduates, Satisfaction levels of PhD Graduates of PhD Education.
P9 The motivational beliefs of PhD students in Medicine and Health Sciences

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In 2005 Georgia joined Bologna Process, New Law about Higher Education has been adopted and three cycles of Education (BA, MA and PhD) have been implemented in the country. The total number of PhD students in Georgia is 4076 (National Statistics Office of Georgia, 2016).

Tbilisi State University is the oldest and biggest University in Georgia. It has seven Faculties among them is Faculty of Medicine. Approximately 20-25% of students in Georgia study at Tbilisi State University. The total number of students studying at the Faculty of Medicine is 1445, from which 180 students are on PhD level (PhD programs „Clinical and Translational Medicine” and „Public Health and Epidemiology”).

The motivation represents a power that drives and then steers our activities in order to achieve the goal (Pintrich & Schunk, 2002). The aim of this study is to explore motivation to study Medicine and Health Sciences on PhD program at the Faculty of Medicine, Tbilisi State University. A Special questionnaire has been developed for this study. The questionnaires were distributed to all PhD students of the Faculty of Medicine. A total of 106 completed questionnaires have been used for analyses (response rate 58.8%). This study has provided the insights into PhD students’ motivations to study Medicine and Health Sciences on PhD program at the Faculty of Medicine Tbilisi State University. This study has found that PhD students are more influenced by intrinsic motives and students place priority emphasis on the interest in scientific research and continuing the learning experience.

Postgraduate Doctoral Study of Biomedicine and Health at the Faculty of Medicine in Osijek offers the highest level of education for medical doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacist. It contains a broad spectrum of courses for both clinical and basic medical researches. The goal of this survey was to examine students’ satisfaction with the postgraduate program, including communication, available teaching material and equal representation of all medical fields. 50 PhD students have filled an anonymous questionnaire covering several aspects of the PhD program. They were asked to rank their satisfaction with the quality of different domains of the program with grades from 1 to 5. Out of the total number of participants, 33 (66%) were women, half of them between age 25 and 35, and 31 (62%) of them were clinical medical researchers. Most of the participants (68%) agreed that the postdoctoral program should contain advanced course of foreign language (English or German), which was in concordance with the fact that 44 (88%) participants expressed the opinion that bringing high-quality researches from abroad would significantly improve the quality of the study. Significantly more clinical researches agreed with that claim, comparing to basic medicine or public health researches (Chi-Square, p=0.017). There were no differences in the overall satisfaction with the postgraduate program regarding age, gender, or field of research. We can conclude that although general satisfaction with the study is high, students recognize and emphasize the importance of internationalization of our study.
P11 Assessment of the relevance of the specific scientific skills at Postgraduate doctoral study of Biomedicine and Health in Osijek

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Education and creation of a successful and independent scientist with the specific skills obtained are the one of the most important goals of postgraduate doctoral study of Biomedicine and Health. A total of 42 PhD students at the Faculty of Medicine Osijek filled an anonymous online Questionnaire for evaluating the relevance of the specific scientific skills at the Postgraduate doctoral study of Biomedicine and Health in Osijek. Students were asked to rate the importance of skills mentioned in the questionnaire by indicating their level of agreement along the Likert scale. There was significantly more full-time students in advanced stage of their doctoral research comparing to part-time students in early stage of thesis preparation in the study (Chi-Square, \(p < 0.05\)). There were no statistical differences between these groups of students when it comes to the attitudes towards various specific scientific skills. Most of the assessed skills are evaluated as very important or important by all the participants, with slightly lower importance given to the skills related to education of students and ability to objectively evaluate students knowledge. Consideration should be given to offer additional courses for acquiring specific scientific skills individually tailored to PhD student needs.
Introduction: Institute of Health Sciences of Bezmialem Vakif University (BVU) has been established in April 24th, 2010. The mission of the institute is to meet the need of teaching staff and to increase the research activities in national/international scientific projects by raising researchers and expert scientists who have made scientific thinking in various health related fields and who are trying to produce solutions by questioning contemporary knowledge. Consequently, we believe that the self-assessment obtained from all partners is crucial. In this study we aimed to evaluate academicians’ perspective regarding to the application requirements to the graduate programs, education and functioning of the institute.

Methods: A questionnaire composed of 18 questions was applied to the academicians who are giving graduate lectures and supervising graduate students. A 5-point Likert scale was used to increase response rate and quality. Participants attended to the study were Full Professors (42.4%), Associate Professors (30.3%) and Assistant Professors (27.3%).

Results: The total number of academicians who are giving graduate lectures and supervising graduate students is 52. Only 33 of them completed the questionnaire. The majority of academicians strongly agreed (48.5%) or agreed (39.4%) with the application requirements to graduate programs. 25.6% and 30.6% of the participants strongly agreed and agreed with the education of the institute, respectively. While most of them strongly agreed (27.3%) or agreed (42.4%) with the functioning of the institute, it was interesting to find out that an important number of academicians (33.3%) were not aware of the institute website.

Conclusion: The data obtained from this study indicates that academicians in general concur with the application requirements and they are satisfied with the education and functioning of the institute. However, the numbers should be improved to serve our mission better.

Keywords: Graduate education, application requirements, academicians
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**Introduction:** The mission of the Institute of Health Sciences is to train expert scientists in various health related fields and increase the research activities in national/international scientific projects. Therefore, our institute provides graduate education for the related education branches of the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and interdisciplinary departments of Biotechnology, Pharmacognosy and Natural Products Chemistry, Neuroscience, Disaster Medicine, and Disaster Management. In this study we aimed to investigate the graduate students’ opinions for the education and scientific activities at the Institute of Health Sciences.

**Methods:** The data was collected via a questionnaire consisting 22 questions. The answers were collected and analyzed by Excel software. In the first part of the questionnaire form, participants were asked to evaluate different aspects of the education (application, content, attendance, course handling) by indicating their level of agreement with each statement along the 5-point Likert scale (1= strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3= neutral, 4= agree, 5= strongly agree). In the second part of the form some two-point questions were asked in order to evaluate scientific activities of the graduate students. 40% of the participants were PhD students while 60% were MSc students.

**Results:** 118 of 140 graduate students completed the questionnaire placed in the student automation system. Most of the students strongly agreed (24.8%) or agreed (37.6%) with the application requirements to the graduate programs. About half of them strongly agreed (17.8%) or agreed (36%) with the education of the institute. According to the second part of the questionnaire, 62% and 92% of the thesis students didn’t receive a financial support from the University’s Scientific Research Projects Unit (BAP) and The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), respectively. Only 23% of the thesis students participated to a national/international conference. 20% of them prepared manuscripts for publication or published their thesis studies in national or SCI journals.

**Conclusion:** In general, most of the students are satisfied with the education given at the institute. On the other hand, results of this study suggest that the students need more support for article writing, paper presentation, participating in congresses and projects.

**Keywords:** Graduate students, education, scientific activities
P14 Scientific output of medical PhD program graduates

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Background: Considerable effort is put into scientific education and research training in medical PhD program curricula at Gadjah Mada University Faculty of Medicine. The output as a result of this effort, however, is not known.

Aim: To assess the number of scientific international publications of year 2014 graduates within 3 years after completing the PhD program.

Methods: International publications were identified in Scopus database using last name and initials of the graduates. Only journal publications were included. Publications were excluded if they were published during 2015 to 2017.

Results: Of the 34 graduates, only 16 were found as authors in the Scopus database. Two authors were excluded, one because the publications were not during the specified time period and the other because the publications were book chapters. Thus the number of graduates eligible for analysis were 14 authors (41%). The total number of publications from these authors were 25, giving an average of 1.8 publications per author (range 1 to 4). The average publication from all graduates were only 0.7 (range 0 to 4). The characteristics of graduates who are more likely to publish after graduating will be identified and discussed.

Conclusion:

Based on the results, we conclude that graduates of our PhD program are not productive at publishing research results. Ways to improve the productivity of PhD program graduates need to be considered.