

„CAROL DAVILA” UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery Department (IV)

Bucharest University Hospital

***HABILITATION* THESIS SUMMARY**

**ELECTIVE AND EMERGENCY GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY, REVIEW
OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH**

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I, the aforementioned, Consultant General Surgeon, PhD and Professor of Surgery have more than 30 years of experience in academic teaching and over 17 years in scientific medical research.

Research and scientific contribution

Over my scientific career I have dealt with a wide variety of conditions, some of which are commonly encountered, some of which are very rare, some with direct link to the general surgery field, others having more in common with the medical specialities (Haematology, Pharmacology, Immunology, Oncology), but influencing the surgical outcome greatly or having a surgical solution.

Regarding the oesophageal surgical pathology I have approached Achalasia in both my PhD thesis and in the Surgical Textbook edited under the late professor Nicolae Angelescu, and also Oesophageal Trauma and Oesophageal Exploration. I have written numerous papers on Functional Studies of the Oesophagus, used in diagnosing oesophageal conditions, ranging from trauma and strictures, to inflammatory conditions and neoplasms. I have been preoccupied to increase the awareness of the necessity of rapid diagnosing in oesophageal cancers because of their quick progression and the narrow therapeutic window available.

I have presented my personal and departmental experience in relation to the therapeutic solutions of oesophageal conditions we dealt with over the years including the preoperative steps in oesophageal reconstruction surgeries and minimally invasive endoscopic techniques.

With regards to the GI tract disorders I have approached an equally broad spectrum of topics, from trauma and emergency cases to oncological conditions which are unfortunately so often encountered. I have reiterated the importance of early diagnosis of GI neoplasms (gastric carcinoma, GI lymphomas and intestinal tumours) and also focused my attention on PUD, quite commonly seen, elaborating on

participating in the writing of papers related to its methods of diagnosis and its surgical and endoscopic treatment.

Unfortunately, the surgical colorectal spectrum of diseases is dominated by neoplastic aetiology, hence my endeavour to describe as detailed as possible early diagnostic methods in addition to the well-known colonoscopy whose diagnostic importance is unequivocal. I have presented medical and surgical treatment methods, their comparative advantages over each other from multiple points of view including life quality and the economic burden.

Another domain over which I manifested interest involved Emergency Surgery mainly because I am practicing in a prestigious emergency hospital providing care for a great number of emergency cases in a large catching area including Bucharest and its surroundings. In this regard I have studied and presented rapid diagnostic tools to aid and favour the surgeon in his fight with time, establishing correlations between certain serological parameters and pathology types of some inflammatory illnesses of the GI tract.

I have presented diverse clinical cases about rare surgical conditions and their particular surgical solutions (Amyand hernia with peri-appendicular abscess, delayed post traumatic diaphragmatic hernia manifesting 15 years following the traumatic event, gastric ischemia) and I have insisted on the polymorphism of the clinical presentations, laboratory and pathology findings in emergency surgery cases.

Another important chapter in my academic and research career involved the topic of bowel obstruction on which I have published an analytical study on the aetiology and incidence reported to age and sex of the patients.

I have also produced a number of papers on the topic of traumatic acute abdomen insisting on the particularities in diagnosis and treatment.

Proposals for development in academic career

Even though I consider that my medical research activity and the academic expertise recommend me for mentoring young researchers in the medical field, I believe there is room for improvement. For the development of my career I have envisaged, as strategic goals, to increase the quality of the educational process and to promote an academic climate based cooperative teamwork, mutual respect and the implementation of a system for quality management.

The main directions for development consist of enhancing the quality of the teaching for students and trainees and heightening the research activity.

The research goals set consist of reaching to a level of excellence in education and research and increasing the efficiency in utilising the scientific and research resources available for this discipline.

The values on which the development plan was conceived are: professional, moral and social responsibility, the aim to continuously centre the activity on excellence and collaboration, and to be open to novelty, creativity, ingenuity and altruism.

The professional development on the teaching side starts from a set of objectives centred on the need for alignment and adaptation of the Romanian medical teaching system to the latest European standards and the need for cooperative collaboration with other centres outside our country under the auspices of equal opportunity rights and the endeavour to be compliant with Quality Management System.

In this regard the activity plan consists of short term goals (1 month to 1 year) like :the improvement of teaching skills, enhancement of topic presentation efficiency , incentivising the interest of the students for surgery and evaluation of the teaching activity at the end of each term, and long term (1 year to 3 years) goals which comprise: the development of clinical rotations curricula, optimising the use of didactic material , attracting the students towards training activities and elaborating

degree theses, getting more involved in training programmes, sharpening my own teaching skills and participating actively in increasing the material resources of the department.

The objectives set for developing the research part vary from promoting the Romanian research within the European academic area and incorporating research in teaching curricula to elaborating research projects and national and international grants, from starting interdisciplinary programmes to increasing the number of the surgical trainees involved with research journal clubs in the department.

The short term goals (1 month to 1 year) relates to the continuation of the research projects, attending national and international scientific meetings, attracting students and trainees in research projects , intensifying the publishing activity, attracting grants and enhancing the specialty related knowledge.

On long term (1 year to three years) the development agenda envisages attendances to national and international project competitions, to intensify the involvement in collaborative grants with external partners, to identify financing sources for research and training future generation of researchers, to increase the number of attendances to scientific meetings, to put in place interdisciplinary curricula and to attract trainees with notable results in research activities.

The most important aspect in the teaching activity is represented by the interaction with the students. A good relationship them could be achieved by simple measures like getting involved with their activities, respecting their position, by backing up their proposals and initiatives and offering them a role model for moral and professional conduct.

Being a member of a prestigious university such as Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, I rely in my endeavour of implementing this plan of professional and personal development in equal measure on both my intrinsic qualities centred around the notions of professional, moral and social responsibility and on the support of all my colleagues in the department.