

UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

“CAROL DAVILA” BUCHAREST

DOCTORAL SCHOOL

MEDICAL FIELD

**Modern management of surgical pathology in children: from clinical
practice to excellence in academic activity**

ABSTRACT OF HABILITATION THESIS

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Habilitation thesis entitled „*Modern management of surgical pathology in children: from clinical practice to excellence in academic activity*” describes my entire activity, presenting the achievements on a professional level, the scientific and didactic activity, as well as the perspectives of further development in academic terms.

The introduction briefly presents the evolution at professional level, starting with the promotion of the residency exam in the specialty of pediatric surgery and orthopedics in 1995 and later with the obtaining of the title of specialist doctor in 2000 and senior physician in 2005. At the same time, it is presented the didactic stages completed within the "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Department 11, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Department of Pediatric Surgery of the Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children "Maria Sklodowska Curie" Bucharest.

Chapter 1: "Scientific activity / scientific achievements" presents in detail the results obtained in the scientific activity. This chapter is structured in several sections, the first being represented by surgical aspects in the pathology of congenital malformations in children. Of these, a topic that has been a permanent concern in my professional activity, starting with my doctoral thesis, is esophageal atresia. Throughout my medical career I have tried to find surgical solutions to reshape the malformed esophagus. Thus, I imagined a new surgical procedure - esophagoplasty with isoperistaltic gastric tube from the small curvature, possibly used to replace the distal esophagus. Also, I imagined and designed a “Medical device for performing the esophageal anastomosis in long-gap esophageal atresia”, which was the subject of the OSIM patent no. 4/87 / 30.04.2014. I also present the publishing activity related to these preoccupations: articles published in various medical journals, but also in the book “Esophageal surgical pathology of the child”, published in 2014 at the Carol Davila University Publishing House in Bucharest. I then presented my involvement in research activities in terms of diagnosis and surgical treatment of colorectal malformations - published articles, along with numerous scientific papers presented at various scientific events. A specific chapter in the surgical pathology of the child that attracted me is represented by the lip and palate abnormalities. I presented the inter-institutional cooperation with some of the best teams dealing with craniofacial anomalies in Europe, both for the implementation of modern surgical techniques, but especially to lay the

foundations for a multidisciplinary treatment of these children. In this thesis, I presented the two books published at the Carol Davila University Publishing House in Bucharest, one addressed to doctors - "Cleft lip and palate - multidisciplinary diagnosis and treatment", and the other being a useful guide for parents with children with lip and / or palate malformations - "Caring for children with cleft lip and palatine". Also, in the thesis are presented the international projects in which I was / am involved, both as project manager and member - both COST Action and Erasmus + projects. In the last sections of the chapter, I presented my scientific activity related to surgical management of tumors in children, the child's surgical emergencies, and finally I showed my concern on a very important aspect – medico-legal issues in addressing healthcare in the pediatric patient.

Chapter 2: presents in detail the academic activity. My university career began in 2002 as assistant at the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics Clinic, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy. In 2016 I was confirmed, after passing an examination, Lecturer, and in 2017 Associate Professor. During all these years, as a teacher, I actively participated in the training of students, with special emphasis on a good understanding of the teaching courses, often using interactive activities, with the direct involvement of students in the learning process. I showed in the thesis that in the specific period of the COVID 19 pandemic, taking into account the current realities, I conducted online courses, and because of the direct contact with the patient I tried to present as many interesting cases as possible, exemplified through detailed clinical and imagistic elements as well as intraoperative images.

Chapter 3: describes all the stages of training I went through, the internships and postgraduate courses completed.

Chapter 4: Plans for the evolution and development of the academic career. In this chapter I emphasized the need to place the student at the center of our university activity, his good professional training and the quality of the example set by us, his teachers, who will determine his training as a good professional with implications for the medical act in the future. I have shown that I want to focus my teaching activity primarily on improving the teaching of the pediatric surgery module in the university

curriculum, actively engaging in the permanent updating and presentation of courses, in accordance with the current university curriculum. I have presented in this chapter the cooperation we developed between UMF "Carol Davila" and the University of Oslo, but also the clinical and scientific collaboration relations with members of other prestigious universities in Europe, such as the University of Gothenburg Sweden (Jan Lilja, Hans Mark) or University of Plovdiv Bulgaria (Prof. Youri Anastassov's team), which materialized through numerous exchanges of experience between the members of the team I lead and our colleagues abroad. I was actively involved, as project manager for Romania, in over ten international projects, some of them still in progress. I emphasized the importance of the participation of young resident doctors or specialists in these inter-institutional programs, with internships abroad at prestigious universities and connection to European academic standards. I also mentioned that in the future I will continue to apply for other national and international grants with the participation of as many researchers as possible in our clinic, thus contributing to raising the prestige of UMF "Carol Davila". I specified in the thesis that, based on the accumulated medical experience, I have published so far, a number of 25 ISI-listed articles, 20 of them as first author, articles cited in international databases, thus totaling a Hirsch Web of Science Index. of 6 and a cumulative Impact Factor (as main author) of 19.81, values that I consider a proof of the recognition of the activity submitted in all these years. In addition, I have published 21 more articles in BDI international databases, 18 of them being the first author. These publications are in addition to the 150 papers presented at medical congresses and symposia, 52 of which were presented at international events. I believe that the numerous international multidisciplinary scientific collaborations, publications published in various prestigious journals and my constant and active presence over the years at many conferences in the country and abroad have led to a maturity that entitles me to believe that I have accumulated the ability to add value to the medical academic environment by coordinating on a higher level the scientific and academic activity.