

HISTORICAL NOTE

SIXTY YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY AT THE SS CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE, R. MACEDONIA (1947–2007)

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Abstract: The Medical Faculty (M.F.) in Skopje was founded on 6th March 1947 by a Decree of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

Over the past six decades, the Medical Faculty has been and still is a key institution where medical professionals, medical doctors and other medical-health personnel have been educated, as well as an institution where scientific research and applied health activities have been conducted.

The first 153 students were enrolled at the Faculty in the autumn of 1947. More than 10,000 medical doctors and 350 radiology technicians have graduated at the Medical Faculty. A total of 315 students have finished postgraduate studies and acquired a Master's degree in medical sciences and there are 160 active postgraduates at present.

The degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences has been awarded to 463 candidates, while 93 are in the process of preparing their doctoral thesis. Currently the process of introducing three-year doctoral studies is underway. Since 1992, 2,380 have successfully passed the specialist exam, while 700 specializations are ongoing.

The teaching process is being conducted by 233 professors and 215 teaching assistants through 33 departments. The Medical Faculty consists of 12 institutes and 3 teaching bases in the pre-clinical segment. The clinical segment consists of 25 clinics, 3 institutes and 7 teaching bases.

The Medical Faculty has published the journal *Godishen zbornik na Medicinskiot fakultet*, which has been renamed *Makedonsko spisanie za medicina*. More than

380 monographs and textbooks have been printed in the country or abroad. A total number of 350 scientific projects have been undertaken, 40 with international partners.

The Medical Faculty in Skopje has been a founder and “mother” faculty to the Faculty of Dentistry and the Faculty of Pharmacy, also providing, at the same time, interdisciplinary studies at other faculties.

Key words: Medical Faculty, education, research, health application.

The Medical Faculty in Skopje was established in the year 1947, as the second Faculty within the University after the foundation of the Faculty of Philosophy, and as the fourth Medical Faculty in Yugoslavia at that time.

At the time of its establishment, there were only 123 medical and dental doctors, 96 pharmacists and 120 supporting high-school-trained medical staff in Macedonia. The health condition of the population in Macedonia was poor. There were 300,000 people suffering from malaria, 30,000 from tuberculosis; several thousand citizens had exanthematous and abdominal typhus, children's paralysis and other infectious diseases.

In order to educate health professionals and to improve the health of the population, the Government of the People's Republic of Macedonia issued a Decree for the foundation of the Medical Faculty on 6th March 1947, when the first professors at the Faculty were also appointed.

Dr. Sterjo Bozdov, professor of the subject Hygiene, was elected to be the first dean of the Faculty along with the first 19 teachers of the other subjects taught at the Faculty. The premises of the existing General (Country) Hospital with 640 beds and the Hygienic Institute had to provide conditions for clinical and preclinical education. Teaching of preclinical subjects was organized in the Hygienic Institute and the prefabricated premises of the Nursing School (Secondary Medical School), while the following clinics were established at the departments of the General (Country) Hospital: Surgical, Internal, Pediatric, Gynecologic, Psychiatric, Infectious, Dermatovenerological, Eye Clinic, Clinic for Ear, Nose and Throat and Tuberculosis Institute.

In the academic year 1947, the Medical Faculty in Skopje worked according to the study programme and regime of the other Yugoslav medical faculties. Medical studies lasted for 12 semesters, with 6,015 hours, of which 57% were theoretical courses and 43% practical ones. The number of subjects taught was 41.

In the autumn of 1947, the first 153 students were enrolled at the Medical Faculty. The Teaching-Educational Council consisted of 19 professors, of whom 5 were regular professors, 3 associate professors, 8 assistant professors and 3 teaching assistants.

Over the past years, the Medical Faculty has developed and grown into a prestigious educational, scientific and health institution, undergoing numerous organizational transformations and playing an important role in providing health care for the citizens of R. Macedonia.

In the last sixty years, the Medical Faculty has educated 10,000 medical doctors and 350 radiology technicians. A total of 315 students have completed postgraduate studies in different fields of medicine and acquired a master's degree in medical sciences, and there are 160 active postgraduates at present.

The degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences has been awarded to 463 candidates, while 93 are in the process of preparing their doctoral theses. At the moment the introduction of contemporary doctoral studies is underway.

The Medical Faculty performs postgraduate professional studies, specializations and subspecializations in various medical fields. Since 1992, 2,380 candidates have successfully passed the specialist exam, while 700 specializations are ongoing.

The Medical Faculty in Skopje has played a vital role as a founder of and "mother" faculty to the Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Pharmacy, also providing, at the same time, interdisciplinary studies at other faculties.

The teaching-educational, research-scientific and health activities are being carried out by 233 teachers: 125 regular professors, 71 associate professors, 36 assistant professors; 37 scientific researchers, 13 lecturers and 215 teaching assistants. The Medical Faculty consists of 12 institutes and 3 teaching bases in the pre-clinical segment as well as 25 clinics, 3 institutes and 7 teaching bases that take an active part in the teaching and scientific clinical segments. The teaching process is conducted by 33 departments.

The most contemporary achievements in the field of education, scientific research and health activities in Europe and worldwide are being pursued and applied at the Faculty.

Those employed at the Faculty have been engaged in the publication of the journal *Godishen zbornik na Medicinskiot fakultet*, now renamed into *Makedonsko spisanie za medicina (Macedonian Journal of Medicine)*. More than 20,000 professional and scientific articles have been published, including those published in *Makedonski medicinski pregled* and other domestic and international scientific-professional journals.

More than 380 monographs and textbooks have been published in the country or abroad.

A total number of 350 scientific projects have been undertaken, 40 of them with international partners. The collaboration with foreign medical faculties is fruitful and beneficial.

The members of the Medical Faculty are very active in many organizations, such as the Macedonian Medical Association, the Macedonian Chamber of Medicine and International medical associations, performing continuing education and solving numerous health problems.

The members of the Medical Faculty and the Faculty itself have had the most prestigious awards conferred upon them. They have also been appointed to prominent managerial positions in the society, at the University and in the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

The Skopje Medical Faculty has made and continues to make an enormous contribution in producing medical professionals as well as a providing modern health care service in the Republic of Macedonia.

Резиме

60 ГОДИНИ ОД ФОРМИРАЊЕ НА МЕДИЦИНСКИОТ ФАКУЛТЕТ НА УНИВЕРЗИТЕТОТ СВ. КИРИЛ И МЕТОДИЈ ВО СКОПЈЕ, Р. МАКЕДОНИЈА (1947–2007)

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Медицинскиот факултет (М.Ф.) во Скопје е формиран на 6 март 1947 година со Указ на Владата на Република Македонија.

За изминатите шест децении Медицинскиот факултет беше и останува институција каде што се создаваат медицински кадри, доктори и друг здравствен персонал, каде што се изведува научноистражувачката работа и апликативната здравствена дејност.

Првите 153 студенти се запишале на Факултетот есента во 1947 година. На М.Ф. дипломирале 10.000 доктори по медицина и 350 радиолошки техничари. Магистерски студии од различни области на медицината завршија 315 студенти и се здобија со титула магистер по медицински науки, а студираат 160 студенти.

Титула доктор по медицински науки добиле 463 кандидати, а 93 изработуваат докторска теза. Исто така се воведуваат современи тригодишни докторски студии. Од 1992 година 2.380 кандидати успешно положиле специјалистички испит и на специјализација се 700 доктори.

На М.Ф. настава обезбедуваат 233 наставници и 215 асистенти. Настава се одржува на повеќе од 33 катедри. М.Ф. го сочинуваат 12 институти и 3 наставни бази во претклиничкиот дел. Во клиничкиот дел се наоѓаат 25 клиници, 3 институти и 7 наставни бази.

На М.Ф. се публикувал Годишен зборник на Медицинскиот факултет, а сега се публикува Македонско списание за медицина. Напишани се и отпечатени над 380 монографии и учебници во земјава и во странство. Изработени се 350 научни проекти од кои 40 со меѓународни партнери.

Медицинскиот факултет беше основач и матичен факултет на Стоматолошкиот и Фармацевтскиот факултет, а обезбедува интердисциплинарна настава и на други факултети.

Клучни зборови: Медицински факултет, едукација, истражување, здравствена апликација.

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