



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE



Dean

Prof. Dr. Sonja Topuzovska

Prof. Dr. Sonja Topuzovska was born on 22.02.1965 in Skopje. She enrolled at the Medical Faculty in Skopje in the academic year of 1983/84, and she graduated in February 1989 with an average success of 9.73. She was employed at the Institute of Medical and Experimental Biochemistry in 1991. Since 1995 she is a specialist in medical biochemistry. In 1997 she obtained a master's degree, and she defended the doctoral dissertation in 2002, wherewith she acquired the title Doctor of Medical Sciences in the field of medical biochemistry. At the Department of Biochemistry, Prof. Dr. Topuzovska was elected junior assistant in 1993, and she was elected assistant in 1996, a docent in 2003, an associate professor in 2008, and since 2013 she is a regular professor. She is actively included in the lectures for the students of medicine and stomatology, and for the students from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Skopje. Since the academic year of 2011/12 she also participates in the lectures for doctoral studies in the field of basic medicine within the school of doctoral studies at the University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje. Apart from the teaching and publishing activity, an important part of her everyday work is the laboratory, professional and scientific-research activity at the Institute of Biochemistry.

Her interest is particularly directed towards the electrophoretic methods for separation of biomolecules. She participated and managed the scientific-research work of the teams for preparation of more than 10 scientific projects, and she also attended several professional improvement events. The results of this activity are more than 150 scientific papers printed in national and foreign journals and presented at national and international congresses. Prof. Dr. Topuzovska is an active member of several commissions and boards within the Faculty and the University, the Macedonian Medical Association, the Association of Doctors Specialists in Medical Biochemistry of Macedonia, the association for the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and the Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology within the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS). Since April 2009 until September 2016, Prof. Dr. Topuzovska performed the function Pro-Dean for Education, and since October 2016 she is the Dean of the Medical Faculty in Skopje.

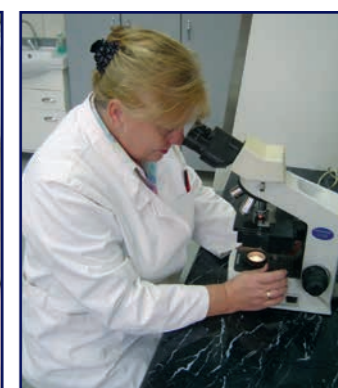


The creation and development of higher education institutions, where through an organized, systematic and sustainable process, staff is formed that in a specific activity can respond to the contemporary and future challenges posed by every society, is an elementary requirement for qualification of civilizedness. Macedonia fulfilled this particular assignment and determination in the field of health care and medicine, 70 years ago, when on March 17, 1947, within the premises of the "District Hospital", the first session was held of the just formed Teaching Council of the Medical Faculty in Skopje, and in the period that followed it has realized and permanently developed its humane mission. On 17.03.2017 the Medical Faculty marked its 70th anniversary. The decision for the establishment of the Medical Faculty in Skopje was adopted on May 22, back in 1946, by the Committee for Protection of Public Health of the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. On March 6, 1947, the Government of the People's Republic of Macedonia adopted a decree for the establishment of the Medical Faculty in Skopje, wherewith all organizational, professional and formally-legal preparations for the establishment of the Medical Faculty were completed. The teaching staff at the time comprised of 19 teachers and 3 assistants which were responsible for several subjects. Despite of the limited human resources, the determination to conduct a serious and extensive educational corps with duration of six years, and curricula realized with 41 subjects, shows a pioneering commitment and confirms the primordial truth that there is no time where pioneers are not required, because only they can create all prerequisites for the realization of a vision. In autumn 1947, 153 students enrolled at the Medical Faculty in Skopje. On November 3, 1947, the first generation of the newly established Medical Faculty in Skopje held its first academic class. Today the Faculty comprises of: 36 departments, 12 institutes, 3 centers, laboratories, a library, a professional service, and an administrative service. The faculty has 11 teaching bases and 29 clinics which are actively included in the faculty's operation through their departments. It realizes its complex and very responsible activity through a total of 555 members of the teaching and associate staff, of which: 118 regular professors, 45 associate professors, 60 docents, 6 scientific counselors, 9 senior scientific associates, 44 scientific associates, 6 entitled associate professors, 16 entitled docents, 70 assistants, 24 junior assistants, 156 assistant doctoral candidates, and 1 assistant researcher. As the oldest higher education institution in the country, the Medical Faculty is very responsible to maintain the level and the quality of teaching and the transfer of knowledge to younger generations. Our main duty is to educate doctors of medicine, who will practice modern theoretical and practical knowledge and skills, applicable in the health care system in the country and in the world. The undergraduate teaching is performed in accordance with the European credit-transfer system for all five curricula – general medicine, three-year vocational studies for professional nurses – technicians, radiologic technologists, physical therapists and speech therapists, and the diplomas obtained at the Medical Faculty are recognized in the countries of the European Union. In the past 70 years, 11.486 students of general medicine, 500 professional nurses, 704 professional radiologic technologists, 220 professional physical therapists and 147 professional speech therapists graduated at the Faculty of Medicine.

Second cycle studies – postgraduate studies: the last generation of students at the department of general medicine enrolled in the school year of 2007/2008, a total of 56 students. In the past period of ten years, 150 candidates obtained a master’s degree at the study program of general medicine, while 165 students enrolled at the study program for public health, of which so far 150 candidates obtained a master’s degree. In 2013 a study program of second cycle vocational specialist studies for clinical speech therapists was accredited. Third cycle – doctoral studies. In the last decade, 202 candidates acquired the title doctor of medical sciences according to the old program. Since 2011, with the introduction of the School of Doctoral Studies within the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, at the Medical Faculty, the three-year study program for the third cycle was accredited – doctoral studies in medical sciences with three subprograms (molecular, basic and clinical medicine) and the study program in public health. The doctoral studies aim to ensure harmonization with the research and education system in Europe and to raise the quality level within this field. So far a total of 437 students enrolled, of which 45 candidates earned a doctoral degree. The teaching contents and programs for the existing specialist studies are harmonized with the appropriate programs from the EU countries, for the purpose of improvement of the quality and compatibility of the specialized staff. The Medical Faculty introduced 54 new programs for specialization and 44 programs for subspecialization in the field of internal medicine branches, surgical branches, basic sciences and preventive health care. Currently 1085 doctors specialize at the faculty, and there are 151 specialists at subspecialization. For the programs of continuous medical education of the doctors in the Republic of Macedonia, the Medical Faculty actively participates by organizing lectures, workshops, seminars, congresses and professional educations in cooperation with the medical associations. For the student activities, such as congresses, summer schools, as well as participation in courses for talented students, the Medical Faculty participates with professional engagement and finance. The faculty staff and the teaching staff actively participate in research activities within the basic and clinical fields, as well as in public health. The members of the departments are acknowledged scientists and experts within their field, they cooperate and exchange experiences and knowledge with colleagues in Europe and worldwide.



The faculty is active in the constant modernization of the laboratories, wherewith better conditions for the scientific-research work are created. The teaching staff of the Faculty publishes numerous papers in relevant professional journals. According to data taken from Thomson Reuters, Web of Science, of the entire scientific activity within UKIM, approximately one third originates from the Medical Faculty in Skopje. Taking into consideration the determination for promotion and modernization of the work processes in the direction of improvement of the conditions for the students, the patients and the employees, in accordance with the European directives and the world standards, in the past 10 years the Medical Faculty in Skopje made major developments in all three integrative segments of operation – the teaching scientific-research and health-applicative activity. In the past period, the construction and interior design of the first and second floor of the deanery building was completed, where academic premises are provided with an amphitheater, lecture rooms and cabinets; a bookstore is open wherewith organized sale of textbooks, teaching aids, scripts, manuals and books was provided. Partial or complete reconstruction and equipping of 6 amphitheatres and 3 lecture rooms is performed. A new facility is built with an amphitheater and lecture rooms according to the latest standards of teaching. Reconstructions of the premises have been completed at all institutes which are within the Medical Faculty, and modern medical equipment is supplied, which enabled them to develop and modernize the health-applicative activity. The Institute of Microbiology and Parasitology became the first accredited microbiological laboratory in the Republic of Macedonia according to ISO 15189. Then the following institutions were accredited: the Institute of Medical and Experimental Biochemistry, the Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, the Institute of Forensic Medicine, Criminalistics and Medical Deontology, the Institute of Pathology, the Institute of Pathophysiology and Nuclear Medicine and the Institute of Immunobiology and Human Genetics according to ISO 17025. The permanent efforts for modernization of the laboratories and the application of modern diagnostic methods are a guarantee for the further development and affirmation of the Faculty in the country and beyond in the region, in Europe and in the world. In the entire past period, the Medical Faculty, with its history as old as the Declaration of Geneva (the Physician’s Oath), as a higher education institution, demonstrates evident achievements in the field of teaching, science and health. The hope to perpetuate the message of the faculty founders which was sent 70 years ago, in distant turbulent, uncertain and difficult times, has been fulfilled. The numerous generations justified the trust instilled by their predecessors. Together they wrote the medical history, today creating a field for development of the current and many future generations. A privilege of the current generation of employees at the Faculty is to work in a prestigious institution, built and developed in the past seven decades, however simultaneously the obligation to follow the example of our predecessors and to continue the line of development and promotion of the educational, scientific and health care activity in the following period.



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