

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH IN HEALTH SCIENCES

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The concept of translational research began to emerge as a desire of scientists and clinicians to link basic research with medical practice in the clinic in order to achieve the fastest way to development of new forms of treatment and healthcare for patients. Poor communication between scientists from different branches and fields in biomedical and natural sciences has been noticed in the past, as well as the fragmentation of research directions, which has led to slower progress in both the science and the profession. In the strategy for science development of most biomedical faculties, the first priority is the education of employees, associates and students at all levels of education on the application of translational research and its importance for the development of society. Scientific activities are mainly focused on the field of translational biomedical research with the aim of connecting researchers in basic, public health and clinical fields in order to enable more efficient transfer of results from scientific research laboratories to the patient and vice versa. However, when observing neighboring countries, most translation centers and research is limited to doctors of medicine and biomedical research. While reading the previous editorials of the Health Bulletin, the question arises whether we progressed since the words of prof. emeritus Matko Marušić: „What we want for the students of the health professions is to learn that science is not invincible, not even hard. Unfortunately, the situation is not promising, because the students think they do not need it, and, what is even more regrettable this it is also the opinion of a great number of teachers, and the public. So at the

end, this is torture for students; both teachers and students run out of necessary knowledge and skills, and teachers secretly reveal the humiliation they got paid for the work they did not perform.”

Over the past few years, the Faculty of Health Studies and the University of Mostar have undergone changes in the legislative framework, many documents relevant to research, development and innovation have been adopted, and many measures contributing to the realization of research area are being implemented as part of doctoral studies. In addition, the Departments of Basic Medical Sciences I and II and the Department of Scientific Research have been established at the Faculty of Health Studies, which indicates close scientific cooperation between scientists from the School Medicine and the Faculty of Health Studies.

The majority of scientific research projects and publications in biomedical research at the University of Mostar include clinical sciences, histology and embryology, physiology, molecular biology, and immunology. There is considerable scope for improvement in scientific research in physiotherapy, radiological technology and sanitary engineering as the lead development directions of scientific activity at the Faculty of Health Studies in Mostar. An example of good practice in scientific research is nursing, in which there are significant results in publishing of scientific articles and writing doctoral dissertations. Nursing has a rich history of using research in

practice, the foundation was set by Florence Nightingale. The development of translational research at the Faculty of Health Studies will profile recognizable research groups in the region, especially in light of cooperation with related faculties with whom we share a common mission and vision on research development and innovation. Taking into account previous research, projects and publications of the Faculty's staff, we want to form two centers in the forefront: the Center for Infertility Research and Developmental Disorders and the Center for Sports Medicine. Center for Infertility and Developmental Disorders Research will in addition to basic molecular research, also include prevention. The analysis of the current situation involves the employees of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the University Clinical Hospital Mostar, the Cytogenetic Laboratory of the School of Medicine of the University of Mostar, Laboratory for Early Human Development Research of the School of Medicine of the University of Split, Department for Pharmaceutical Biochemistry and Laboratory Diagnostics of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Sarajevo, and doctoral students at the Faculty of Health Studies of University of Mostar. The Center for Sports Medicine will be focused on research of prevention, development and pathogenesis in degenerative joint diseases.

The Center will carry out research and development activities, independently and in cooperation with other scientific research institutions, collaborative projects primarily with the Morphological Laboratory of the School of Medicine of the University of Mostar, Kinesiology Study of the Faculty of Science and Education of the University of Mostar, and Department for Orthopedics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation of the University Clinical Hospital Mostar. The Center will provide access to infrastructure to interested researchers and scientific research institutions and will conduct education and training activities for young researchers in undergraduate and postgraduate studies in physiotherapy and kinesiology, as well as cooperation with other institutions in the area of translational research. In the upcoming period, it is necessary to develop and maintain a critical mass of researchers in several specific, clearly and relatively narrow areas of future scientific recognition of the Faculty of Health Studies. A particular mission is to promote nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, radiological technology, and sanitary engineering as independent scientific branches, and take a new step forward in the regional academic environment.

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