

“OVIDIUS” UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANTA

**DOMAIN OF RESEARCH
MEDICINE**

ABSTRACT OF HABILITATION THESIS

**“COLORECTAL CANCER AND RELATED
PATHOLOGIES - INNOVATIVE APPROACHES
FOR DIAGNOSIS, SCREENING AND
TREATMENT”**

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First part of my habilitation thesis contains a summary of my professional, academic and research activity in the postdoctoral period. After graduation of „*Normal and pathological morpho-physiology of anatomic structures*” Master coordinated by Prof. Dr. Mariana Așchie, in 2002, I became *Doctor in Medicine*, having as research topic “*Screening of Colorectal Cancer in Dobrogea*” coordinated by my mentor Prof. Dr. Florea Voinea in 2005. In 2011, I become *senior physician* in Gastroenterology and, in 2014, I started the second master, this time covering the field of „*Management of Pharmaceutical and Medical Institutions and Services*” organized by Faculty of Medicine, „Ovidius” University. Having as target the continuous improvement and updating of my medical knowledge at the level of the highest standards, I attended 118 scientific sessions/congresses/medical workshops or symposiums and 50 courses in gastroenterology, endoscopy or connected specialities.

I followed-up all steps of classical university teaching carrier, form *Medical Assistant in 2001* to *Associate Professor in 2014*. I always tried to involve the young fellows in the complex field of learning, knowledge and research, and guide them in the translational process of research results into quality scientific medical papers. In the process of mentoring, I guided and coordinated 55 license theses. Starting from 2014, I became *Coordinator for Gastroenterology Specialty Fellowship*, this activity becoming a priority for my professional and academic activity. I participated as a speaker to prestigious national or international meetings, and I was invited to be member of evaluation committees for exams and competitions organized by our faculty or other academic institutions, or by Ministry of Health, as the gaining of Competency in “*General Echography*”.

The publicist activity was a continuous preoccupation during my academic activity, trying to promote the image of our medical school on the national and international medical academic

map. During my carrier, I published 53 papers *in extenso* in journals indexed by *ISI Web of Science/Clarivate Analytics*, *ISI Proceedings Journals* or in journals indexed in other *International Data Bases (BDI)*; 87 abstracts in journals indexed *ISI Web of Science* and 61 oral communications during national/ international conferences/ congresses/ workshops on gastroenterology, endoscopy or other medical topics, 11 books or chapters published in Romanian or foreign editures. The published papers were very appreciated by the medical academic community, being very frequently cited in other works due to their updated and innovative content, some of them becoming reference for international guidelines like those of ESMO/ASCO or being in the top lists of publications on the same topic, according to BioMedLib Search Engine. The recognition of academic, research and publicist activity can be followed in the most prestigious international data bases, an increased number of citations and recommendations being available, all these fulfilling the criteria to receive the *Habilitation Certificate*, according to Research and Education Ministry standards. The whole research activity was appreciated by numerous *prizes, distinctions and Excellency diplomas*. I become reviewer or member of the editorial staff for medical journals, as “*Hepatitis Monthly*” - *An International Monthly Journal in the field of Hepatology*, *PALIATIA Journal*, *Journal of Gastroenterology*, *Hepatology and Endoscopy*, *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, *Romanian Family Medical Journal* and *International Journal of Gastroenterology*. Due to the international appreciation of my academic work, I was invited to become *Project Reviewer* for *Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia – AHQAC* din Barcelona, Spain. During time, I became member of six national and international medical professional societies. I participated as member or investigator of the research team in nine research grants and, in seventeen national or international clinical studies/trials.

After PhD graduation, the main motor for my research activity was the colorectal cancer, studied in a complex manner, from the basic sciences to new screening procedures or new management guidelines.

In Section II, I traced the principal lines for my future professional, academic and research development.

My professional evolving lines are based on the permanent updating to the highest standards in medicine, by acquiring new skills in endoscopy, improving the knowledge about innovative therapeutic methods in Gastroenterology and Hepatology and by participating to

national programs for cancer prevention through screening or for treatment and eradication of viral hepatitis B, C or D.

Evolving in the spirit of knowledge, having a favorable climate for research since my gastroenterology fellowship, having real professional mentors for my activity, research became one of the most important pillars for my professional and academic evolution.

The future research activity will be based on following research projects, with financial support gained after the future competitions for research funding organized by “Ovidius” University of Constanta, by Education and Scientific Research Ministry or by private foundations involved in medicine research.

The topics proposed for the following research projects are:

- *“Detection of risk factors involved in viral resistance occurrence during long term treatments with nucleotidic/nucleosidic drugs for chronic hepatitis B – local genetic adaptive modifications eluding the viral clearance in Dobrogea area population”.*
- *“Reduction of hepatocellular carcinoma by decreasing the bacterial translocation and gut microbiota control in patients with spontaneous peritonitis and liver cirrhosis”.*
- *“New biomarkers for gastric cancer characterisation and classification, targeting a better treatment decision and a better outcome”.*

The mentoring activity for PhD fellows will follow two types of tutoring: the *classic* one and the *co-tutoring*, the multidisciplinary approach of research providing more accurate results and new perspectives and solutions for various medical guidelines.

The academic activity will continue in the same spirit. The up-dating and continuous improvement of lectures with new medical data, like the up-coming gastroenterology lecture book *“Updates in Gastroenterology – Lectures for medicine students”*, which is going to be published for the use of Vth year students of English Division, will be priorities. I will continue to guide and involve students and gastroenterology fellows in the complex process of learning by organizing scientific meetings, symposiums and workshops with subjects related to gastroenterology or connected disciplines. I will also continue to guide students in the research activity in order to realize the practical part of license thesis. I will stimulate the PhD fellows to participate to competitions and contests for medical funds designated for fundamental research and I will always guide them in order to follow the *Good Clinical Practice Rules in Medicine*, according to European regulations. I will assure an intense publicist activity, the goal being 10-15 articles

published *in extenso* in prestigious medical journals, in order to increase the prestige of the medical school from Constanta. As the most complex desiderate for future, I will try to make real the “*International Mentor Concept*” for our students and PhD fellows. This type of mentorship is lately more and more appreciated by international academic community, allowing young researchers from different geographical areas to have access and enlarge their horizon for medical research.

Conclusions. During the whole activity, I guided my steps by adopting an open attitude for research and knowledge, for transparency and adaptability, using always the teamwork spirit and total dedication, sometimes even with personal sacrifices. Trough the proposed Habilitation Thesis, realized in concordance with the Order of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, no. 3121/21.01.2015 and the Regulations of “Ovidius” University, no. 141/16.05.2016, in respect to drafting, organizing and conducting the process of Habilitation, I provided in my best way, arguments that favor my acceptance as PhD habilitate coordinator.