

**”CAROL DAVILA”  
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY BUCHAREST  
DOCTORAL SCHOOL  
FIELD OF MEDICINE**

**The Multidisciplinary Approach In Cervico-Facial Pathology  
As Way of Progress in Clinical Research**

**ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS**

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## ABSTRACT OF THE HABILITATION THESIS

This habilitation thesis describes the evolution and the achievements of my scientific, didactic, and professional activity after public defending of my Ph.D. thesis with the theme "Problems of diagnosis and treatment in cancer of the palatine tonsil" at the Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy (CDUMP) from Bucharest. After the thesis, I expanded the multidisciplinary approach from head and neck oncology in craniofacial trauma, and I created a dynamic team that approaches cephalic extremity trauma in a multidisciplinary emergency hospital. Moreover, I have applied this concept to the field of respiratory allergy where I have leveraged my experience in fundamental research from physiology. Practically, the "red line" of my research activity consisted of the multidisciplinary approach to cervicofacial pathology, which I consider a way of progress in clinical research for the benefit of patients.

*Chapter 1* of the thesis presents the achievements of my scientific activity and the research topics I developed: cervicofacial tumors, craniofacial trauma, and respiratory allergy. I am editor and co-author for *1 international book*, the author of *4 national monographs*, co-author of *2 chapters in international books*, author of *6 chapters in a national treatise book*, and editor for a *Special Issue Reprint (2023)* within the MDPI platform. I am the lead author of *24 articles* and co-author of *5 articles published in ISI journals indexed in Web of Science (WOS) Thomson Reuters*, most of them with high impact factor. I have published *more than 30 articles in journals indexed in international databases (IDB)*.

The recognition of the impact of my scientific activity in the international research context is proven by a *Hirsch index of 8*, according to ISI WOS Thomson Reuters, for my entire academic career. I have accumulated *164 citations* in impact factor journals with an average of *5.16 citations per paper* and a total of *241 citations* according to Google Scholar. One of the articles I co-authored has been cited *23 times* since publication.

I was *Guest Editor* for a *Special Issue of Medicina*, entitled *Current Trends in Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Pathology* (IF 2.948, 2022) and I wrote, together with my co-editors, an *editorial* entitled *Multidisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity as Current Trends in Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Pathology*. Our concept enjoyed real success in the international scientific world, so we published *22 articles* that obtained multiple citations in WOS. The articles were republished in a *Special Issue Reprint* and a *2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* of the *Special Issue* is being edited.

I was the principal investigator in a phase III national clinical trial and I was also involved in a multidisciplinary research project on the topic of micro-implants to stimulate salivary secretion in patients with xerostomia, the results of which were published in ISI journals with a high impact factor.

*Chapter 2* presents the evolution of my academic career. Thus, I became *Junior Assistant Professor* (1998), and *Assistant Professor* (2002), by competition, in the Department of Physiology of the Faculty of Medicine of CDUMP Bucharest, working in a prestigious team and gaining experience in teaching activity, but also in basic research. I have adopted the student-centered form of education, and education based on clinical appliance. In 2020, I became *Senior Lecturer* by competition, within Clinical Department 12 – Ophthalmology, ENT of CDUMP Bucharest. In 2022, I became *Head of Discipline in ENT Discipline Bucharest, Emergency University Hospital (BEUH)* by decision of CDUMP, a position I still hold at present. In 2023 I became *Associate Professor* by competition.

This chapter briefly describes my teaching activity and main teaching responsibilities. I am the coordinator for the ENT Discipline of BEUH for two series per year for the students in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Faculty of Medicine, CDUMP Bucharest. I held courses and practical labs for the students in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the English language modules within the Faculty of Medicine of CDUMP Bucharest. I developed written didactic materials, PPT, and video recordings, in Romanian and English, for ENT courses and practical labs. I coordinated the theoretical and practical summative assessment of the students in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the ORL-SUUB Discipline, Romanian language modules. I coordinated 2-3 bachelor's theses per year for the graduates of the Faculty of Medicine from CDUMP Bucharest and I am a member of Guidance Commissions for 2 young doctoral students of CDUMP. I have tutored ENT residents or from other specialties that have ENT internships in their curriculum. To maintain a high standard of my didactic activity, I participated in pedagogy and communication courses.

I constantly participated in conferences, seminars, and congresses, and I was an invited speaker/chair at over 70 national conferences and 23 international conferences. I valorized a professional experience of over three decades, organizing and coordinating a series of 7 national multidisciplinary annual conferences with over 350 participants each.

As Head of Discipline, I promoted the extension of my team and good professional and research collaboration with all ENT disciplines within Department 12 of CDUMP Bucharest, as well as all Heads of ENT Disciplines from all university centers. Also, as Head of Discipline, I coordinated working groups that included university assistants and residents,

I organized workshops with students (often at their request) and I established a *Research Group* of the ENT Discipline of BEUH. I am an *Elected Member* of the *Council of Department* and in the *Professorial Council of the Faculty of Medicine*, CDUMP for the 2024-2028 legislature.

In *Chapter 3*, I presented the evolution and achievements of my professional career. I started my specialty as an ENT resident, by competition (1995) in the Coltea ENT Department from Bucharest and thoroughly trained especially in head and neck oncological pathology, cervicofacial suppurative, and emergency pathology. Starting in 2001, I went through the stages of establishing the BEUH ENT Department, where I became *Coordinator* in October 2005. I trained and formed a team for the multidisciplinary needs of the hospital. Starting from 2020, the clinical activity was supplemented with teaching activity within the ENT Clinical Department of BEUH. I obtained the *Certificate of Complementary Studies in the Management of Health Services* in 2008. I also graduated from the program for the *Occupation of Trainer*, in 2011.

For a continuous improvement of the level of professional training, I participated in over 38 professional training courses, as well as in 125 national and international conferences, considering that a teacher/tutor must offer a comprehensive perspective to the one he instructs. I have been a *Member of the Medical Council of BEUH* since 2005, and also a *Member of the Ethical Council of BEUH*, since 2018.

Currently, I am the *Coordinator of the ENT Clinical Department at BEUH*. In this position, I organize and coordinate the medical and surgical activities of a team with *over 35 employees*. I am a well-known ENT specialist with which I have been working for 28 years. I have performed over 3,500 ENT surgical interventions and I treat complex pathologies, coordinating multidisciplinary teams and cultivating transversal skills in all my team members.

*The last chapter* of the habilitation thesis includes the proposals for the evolution and development of my academic career. In this sense, I made a synthesis and a SWOT analysis of the current status after almost three decades to consolidate plans for my career.

Initiating and developing the activity of young doctoral students will constitute a new chapter of development in my academic career and I propose internationalization as a central element of my future work with doctoral students. I believe it is very important to attract young students, residents, and Ph.D. students to research projects in compliance with ethical and deontological norms.

I propose the diversification and development of activities in the *Research Group of the BEUH ENT Discipline* with trimestral work meetings and developing transdisciplinary teaching modalities. I also believe that it is necessary to cultivate in young doctoral students, the concept of translational clinical research with the translation of research results from the academic environment to the clinic.

In conclusion, in my entire scientific, academic, and professional activity of which I am proud, I had as a central principle the multidisciplinary approach to cervicofacial pathology that I developed in several research themes. I believe that modern pathology requires this multidisciplinary approach which integrates the skills of each member of the team, overcomes the boundaries, and represents a way of progress in clinical research.