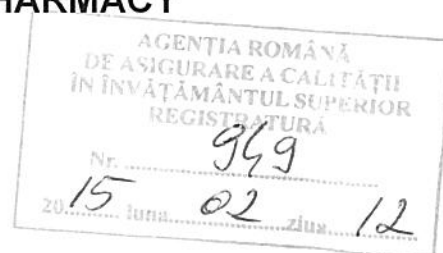


**EXTERNAL EVALUATOR'S REPORT  
FOR ARACIS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY  
OF CRAIOVA 2015**



Introduction

I was appointed as a Foreign External Evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and was consequently invited to join the evaluation team for the institutional evaluation process of THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY OF CRAIOVA (UMPh Craiova). The audit took place between Wednesday 14 January and Friday 16 January 2015.

The evaluation team consisted of the following members, in addition to myself:

Prof. univ. dr. Ioan Lascar – Mission Director

Prof. univ. dr. Radu Oprean – Coordinator of the Experts Evaluator Team

Prof. univ. dr. Delia Podea – Advisory Commission Expert

Prof. univ. dr. Alexandru Tugui – Institutional Commission Expert

Prof. univ. dr. Daniela Ion – Program Expert (Medicine)

Prof. univ. dr. Norina Forna – Program Expert (Dentistry)

Prof. univ. dr. Daniela Munteanu – Program Expert (Pharmacy)

Oana Sarbu – Technical Secretary

Oana Onicas – Student Evaluator (ANOSR)

Mihaela Petrescu – Student Evaluator (UNSR)

The evaluation process began on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30 a.m. in the Senate Room. Prof. univ. dr. Ioan Lascar introduced the evaluation team and asked Prof. univ. dr. Radu Oprean to tell the introductory statements of the mission. Next Prof. univ.dr. Ion Rogoveanu the Rector welcomed the evaluation team and also presented the management of UMPh Craiova.

From 10 a.m. the evaluation team discussed the most important aspects that should be considered during the audit. This was followed by a tour at the university to see the infrastructure and special facilities of the institution. The tour lasted until 1 p.m. as we visited besides the main campus (Block A, Block A' and Block D), the other campus (Block B, Block B' and Block C) also. Meanwhile I had the possibility to talk to the vice-dean who is responsible for international affairs about the international links of UMPH.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. the group of experts was working on different aspects of the evaluation. In my role as Foreign Expert Evaluator, I was responsible for establishing an overview of the whole university and was allowed to move freely, talking to members of staff and students of the university. At 5 p.m. we had an appointment with a group of 90 undergraduate students, at 6 p.m. there was a one hour meeting with a group of 20 former students of UMPH Craiova and at the end of the day at 7 p.m. we met with a group of about 10 graduates' employers.

The team continued the evaluation process on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m. In the morning I visited the EU Office of the International Relations Department and the Foreign Students Office of UMPH Craiova, then I went to see the sport facilities of the students. I also had the possibility to visit a Romanian specialized language lesson for the first year students in the English programme.

The evaluation process was finished on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January when the team of experts prepared the final report. The evaluation process was conducted in open and collegial manner.

### General Statements

UMPH Craiova is a state higher-education institution founded in 1998 (Act 119 of 05.06.1998) by splitting it from the University of Craiova.

In 2009 the institution was evaluated by ARACIS. As a result of the evaluation the institution was awarded the "High Degree of Confidence" qualification.

Nowadays UMPH Craiova has a structure with four faculties: the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Dentistry, the Faculty of Pharmacy and the Faculty of Midwifery and Nursing.

The Faculty of Medicine has the study programme of Medicine (it is available in English too). The Faculty of Dentistry has two study programmes: Dental Medicine and Dental Technique. The Faculty of Pharmacy has the study programme of Pharmacy (it is also available in English but UMPH Craiova has not started it because lack of interest). The Faculty of Midwifery and Medical Assistance has three study programmes: Midwifery, General Nursing, Balneo-physio-kinetotherapy and recovery.

Also, the university is recognized as an institution with the right to organize PhD studies. (On 01.10.2014, a total number of 266 PhD students were registered in 24 specializations, under the coordination of 49 PhD Coordinators.)

In the academic year 2014-2015 there are 3775 students registered, distributed in the following manner: Faculty of Medicine – 2070, Faculty of Dentistry – 483, Faculty of Pharmacy – 532, Faculty of Midwifery and Nursing – 739. Among them, 535 are foreign citizens, 215 having budget paid educational spending (68 with a scholarship), while 320 are fee paying students. In comparison with 2009, an increase in the number of Romanian fee-paying students can be noticed (1391 in 2014 compared to 841 in 2009), while the number of foreign fee-paying students remains approximately the same (86 in 2009 compared to 80 in 2004).

Over 1100 residents, in 41 specialties are active in the academic medical centre of Craiova, with 415 in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years of training period.

The scientific potential and quality of human resources at UMPH Craiova is on a good level.

## Managerial Structure

The leadership of the university is organised in accordance with its legal obligations, which are stated in the university's charter and the structure can be followed very clearly in the organogram of UMPH Craiova:

- the university Senate and the management board on the level of the university;
- the councils of the faculties on the level of the faculties;
- the councils of the departments on the level of the departments.

The Senate of UMPH Craiova consisting of teaching and research staff and the representatives of the students (25%). All academic structures are represented in the Senate. The Senate is the main decision making body of UMPH Craiova and controls the activity of the rector.

The management Board of UMPH Craiova consisting of rector, vice-rectors, deans, general administrative director and a student representative, provides the operative management of the university and put the strategic decisions of the university senate into practice. The new rector was elected in 2011/2012. In terms of structure, the university is led by the Rector, who is supported by three Vice-Rectors. The Rector's duties include the strategic leadership of the university, representing the university at judicial and public bodies and he is in charge of the executive operational administration.

Management and coordination of every activity within all faculties of UMPH Craiova are ensured by a Faculty Board constituted of teachers and students.

The council of the department is elected by the staff of the department and it is managed by the head of department.

The representatives of the students, democratically elected through universal, direct and secret vote, on the level of the study programs, both within the faculties and the university are their legal representatives. The students are represented in all the

*decisional and consultative bodies in the university, including in the commissions of the university senate.*

The administrative structure of the university is led by the general administrative director. The position occupied through public open competition.

The functional organizations of UMPH Craiova are also well-structured and provide various services for the students and the staff.

I was surprised when I met the leadership of UMPH Craiova as they were quite young but I was informed that at the elections from 2011/2012, the institutional management was almost completely taken over from the “founders” by a young generation, mostly graduates of the faculties from Craiova, who through the institutional attachment and a wide international academic and scientific openness offer the guarantee of successfully meeting the mission and purposes of the university.

**Comment:** UMPH Craiova has a coherent, integrated, transparent management system, based on an efficient and effective administration.

### Teaching Staff

In the current academic year teaching staff consists of 444 teachers according to the occupied job positions (including 59 professors, 66 associate professors, 136 lecturers, 176 assistant lectures, 7 preparators). I would like to emphasize that 65 person of the teaching staff are under 35 years old and 375 (85%) teaching staff have the PhD title. It was a great development in human resources as the rate was 58% of PhD holders in 2009.

The structure of the teaching staff seems to be balanced; the university might encourage the experienced lectures to become associate professors and the experienced associate professors to become professors in order to maintain the academic quality. Non-permanent staff from outside the university is graduates in the respective domains and have accumulated experience in practical activities and/or in research. Every year the University evaluates the employees' performances.

The ratio teaching staff / students has been stabilized around the value of 1/6,15.

**Comment:** The quality of human resources and the scientific potential at UMPH Craiova is on a good level. The transparencies of the personal records are clear. The human resource development plans were realized systematically. The ratio of students to teaching staff is very good. It is better than the OECD and European average level.

### Facilities

UMPh Craiova has two Campuses which are situated very close to each other, about 5 minutes' walk. I experienced that the condition of the buildings are on different levels but most of the educational and research spaces fulfil every requirement of the European standards and they are well equipped.

Collaboration relationships with clinical hospitals where practice studies of students and residents take place, on specialties, are stipulated in collaboration contracts signed in accordance with the legislation in force.

UMPh Craiova has a canteen and 3 dormitories with a total accommodation capacity of 1000 students. The students in the hostels have free access to the internet and cable TV connections. The sport facilities of the students are very poor for the students.

Meanwhile high-tech systems in research can be found at UMPH which needed very strong software and IT backgrounds, there are also PCs which are operated by Windows XP software. (The support and updates for Windows XP has expired!)

University Medical Publishing House supports teaching staff in publishing and multiplying courses, practice guides and notebooks.

The scientific results obtained by the teaching staff of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, and other research groups from Romania or other countries, are published in the magazine Current Health Science Journal, edited by University Medical Publishing House, indexed in international data bases (PubMed).

In Craiova, two more scientific journals are published by the university publishing house, Romanian Journal of Psychopharmacology, indexed in international data base (PubMed), and Romanian Journal of Morphology and Embryology, ISI indexed.

UMPh Craiova has a modern library with 3 reading halls, 1 reading hall endowed with 60 computers, and library services, including a book storing space with mobile shelves. The library of UMPh Craiova meets by its structure, functionality and services, the complex requirements for information, study and of its users (students, teachers, doctors, residents, researchers) complex informational, study and research requirements, ensuring the necessary documentary and informational basis for the educational process. In order to facilitate the access to the information found in the library documents, software program was purchased to bring about a bibliographic data base and an OPAC electronic catalogue where all of the titles were introduced.

**Comment:** In the past few years UMPh Craiova has made important progress concerning the material resources and investments. It is important to continue this procedure.

### Students

Currently all types of study programs (undergraduate, master and PhD) are available for the candidates at UMPh Craiova organized by the four faculties:

- undergraduate studies (for high-school graduates, becoming students after attending an admission contest);
- residency programs in 41 specialties (for university graduates with a university degree, after attending a national admission contest);
- master academic studies in Prosthetic restoration with implant support, Community nursing services development, Pharmacology and Toxicology;
- doctoral academic studies (for the education, research and health care specialists, after attending an admission contest)

There is no decrease in the number of students if we compare the data to the last academic years. It is a great success nowadays as the regressive tendency is very

common in most of the higher education institutes because of the demographic problems and economic crises.

At the appointment with the *students*, I found them very open minded, although they were not very active. They were pleased with the education and the circumstances. Only a few of them have taken part in Erasmus Mobility Program who was present at the meeting and they had not any problems with the recognition of the subjects. It seem that students mobility through the agency of IFMSA is more popular.

They mentioned that quite a number of scientific sessions and conferences were organised with the participation of the students (e.g. 16<sup>th</sup> Craiova International Medical Students' Conference 2014) and these activities a supported by the university.

UMPh Craiova is not so very active in Erasmus Mobility programme. The number of the students participating in Erasmus Program could be more for the size of the university and the number of agreements could be raised.

There are 22 (15/7 ERASMUS Student Mobility for Studies/ERASMUS Student Mobility for Placements) outgoing but there are not incoming students at all in this academic year (2014-2015).

**Comment:** It is recommended to increase the number of students taking part in mobility activities especially doing a traineeship abroad. It will help the students to gain some practical experience abroad and it is also suits to EU recommendations.

Besides the organized appointments I also had the possibility to visit a lecture of Romanian specialized language course for the first year students in the English programme at the Faculty of Medicine and I could talk with them. Of course they had not too much experience but one of the most important reasons of their selection among higher educational institutions was that the fees and the expenses are very reasonable in Craiova. They were also satisfied with the English programme. During my stay I also met third year students in the English programme and could talk with them in the break. They were also contented with the study programme.



During the discussion with the *former students* I realised that quite a number of them were employed by UMPH Craiova or the clinics with whom the university cooperates. They said that quality of students had improved a lot recently. The best pupils from high schools from Oltenia Region applied for places at UMPH Craiova. They would not candidate to other medical schools because of the economic crises.

It was also mentioned that the infrastructure had developed a lot since they had graduated. They did not know too much about the alumni programme at UMPH Craiova.

At the meeting with *employers*, they seemed very satisfied with those students who graduated from UMPH Craiova although they brought up the lack of students practical knowledge. Most of the employers were representatives of different hospitals but there were representatives of the medical chamber and pharmacist chamber etc. They also mentioned that subjects related to management should be increased in the curriculums.

## Research

The research activity is coordinated at the level of UMPH Craiova by the scientific Commission of the Senate, the vice-rector with the scientific research, internal and international relations through the scientific research and structural funds department and on the level of the faculties the Dean or Vice Dean. On the level of the faculty of Medicine there are 3 more research centres: The Centre for Research in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, The Centre for Morphology, Microscopy and Immunology Research and The Research Centre in Rheumatology, and on the level of the Faculty of Pharmacy the Drug Research Centre.

The scientific research activity has developed constantly in the past years, including both research funding and research results, mainly expressed in the amount of scientific articles published in ISI Web of Science indexed journals, but also in other internationally recognized databases.

The teaching staff of UMPH Craiova published more than 500 scientific articles in BDI and more than 500 articles in ISI Web of Science magazines in the period 2009-2013

and presented more than 250 ISI indexed abstracts at important international conferences and published a significant number of books and chapters. The research laboratories equipment within UMPH Craiova has increased exponentially in the last years, as a result of the increase of research contracts developed by the research groups with coordinator or partner status. Research laboratories dispose of modern equipment that allows the achievement of high quality research programs.

Research activity at UMPH Craiova is transparent. Scientific research is continuously monitored and evaluated annually.

**Comment:** By creating different research centres at UMPH Craiova the conditions for an increase in the quality of scientific research have been created by providing a high-level infrastructure. The scientific research performance should be balanced among the faculties.

### Quality Management

UMPH Craiova pays a special attention to quality assurance. The Senate approved the formation of a commission for evaluating the quality and accomplishment of medical education standards in 2003 and also accepted the Guide for Quality Evaluation and Assurance System.

The Commission for Quality Evaluation and Assurance of UMPH Craiova develops qualitative and quantitative benchmarking as compared to other universities in the country and abroad for the evaluation and monitoring of the quality.

Besides the transparent quality assurance structure of UMPH Craiova, the university concentrate on the different fields of the quality assurance: quality assurance for management processes; quality assurance in teaching and scientific research; quality assurance of economical and socio-cultural environment; quality assurance of student life.

**Comment:** In my opinion the structure and the procedures of quality assurance at UMPH Craiova are well organized. There is also *internal and external control of quality assurance*. I am happy to declare my full and complete confidence in the quality assurance processes at UMPH Craiova, as well as the quality of its programs.


### Conclusion

I was very much satisfied with what I have experienced; seen, read and heard at the university. I think that UMPH Craiova has improved a lot since the latest ARACIS visit and it is important to continue this procedure. I hope that some of the comments which I made will help the university Management in the process of continual improvement.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Rector, Vice Rectors, Deans and all the University staff for the pleasant atmosphere and the support during my stay in Craiova. Also much gratitude to my colleagues from the evaluation team for the professional, open and gentle way in which the audit was conducted.

At least but not last special thanks to ARACIS for giving me the opportunity to participate in this evaluation process in Romania.

Pécs, 30-01-2015



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