

EDITORIAL

The Military Medical Institute: its past and its future

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The Military-Medical Institute was founded in 1884 through High Royal Decree number 2824 published in Official Monitor number 2/23.01.1884, and was initially led by general academician Zaharia Petrescu. For a long period of time, the institute functioned based on models such as similar Austrian and Prussian institutes, but with a strong French influence. In those times, as well, the students attended both professional training courses at the Faculty of Medicine of Bucharest and military medical training within the Institute.

Through a regrettable decision of the authorities, the courses of the institute are suspended in 1987, military medicine being deeply prejudiced. During the following years, up to 1990, military medical staff was recruited indirectly.

In 1990, the Government of Romania brings moral justice, by adopting Government Decision 585, through which the Military-Medical Institute of Bucharest is re-established as a superior institute of military medical education, with a Military-Medical Training Section based in Târgu-Mureş.

The present activity of the Institute relies on these traditions, which ensure military medical training of all future doctor officers of the Romanian Army, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Administration of Prisons.

For the continuous improvement of military doctors in



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the structures of the Romanian Army, career classes are being organized and held in the Military-Medical Institute with a curricula that is compatible with NATO standards within the operational medicine field.

The teaching personnel of the Institute is permanently preoccupied with promoting academic elitism. Students must find models to follow. Every day, the teaching personnel of the Institute must pass the test of education optimization and of increasing the quality of the educational act. In this regard, steps are being taken at the ministry's management level for the recruitment of teaching personnel. The quality of the educational act can be improved only through the recruitment of personnel with a high level of professional training and, also, through the equipment of classrooms with video projection systems and highly performing apparatus in both Bucharest and Târgu-Mureş,

Because mobility nowadays is not only desirable, but also a necessity, we are doing all that is in our power to achieve this scope. Our students participate in Erasmus+ programs offered by the two Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy – “Carol Davila” of Bucharest and that of Târgu-Mureş – with whom we form a partnership. These scholarships ensure our students' preparation for a whole semester at first class

European medicine universities. Thus, students connect “live” to medicine in other countries. At the national level, they participate in the experience exchange program held between civil universities – TransMed. Military students are amongst the most disciplined and diligent, representing a true heraldry of the Army in the civil universities’ environment.

Also, regarding operational military medicine, our students have participated and continue to participate in different national and international exercises, where they learn from the experience of NATO allied countries. A lot of students of the Institute work during their studying years as volunteers at emergency medicine services, such as S. M. U. R. D.

In order to improve scientific performances, the Military Medicine Students’ Association, in collaboration with the Military-Medical Institute, annually organizes a scientific presentations event, in partnership with military students of other academies. In a similar manner, UMF Tg. Mures annually organizes an international congress, which includes a special military medicine session.

A reason for pride is also represented by the consistent participations of the institutes’ students at numerous meetings, symposiums and congresses organized by the civil medicine universities or by the army: The Balkan Medicine Congress or the congresses organized by the academies representing the three forces of the Romanian Army. Thus, young military students are connected to a flow of information pertaining to university science, showing a striking inclination towards research work.

Another aspect pertaining to priority preoccupations is represented by the participation in sports activities organized between military education institutes or between the various components of the National Defense System, Public Order System and National Security System, where the students of the Institute always win a leading place.

Taking into consideration the actual recruiting demands of the Army, regarding the increase of our defense capability, the tuition figures for 2018 have

doubled. Thus, 100 places were approved for Bucharest and another 100 places for Tg. Mures. Of these, general medicine represents 60 places in Bucharest and 90 in Tg. Mures. For dental medicine, 13 places are approved, and 15 for pharmacy, only in Bucharest. The other beneficiaries have their places approved for general medicine and dental medicine as follows: Ministry of Internal Affairs – 12 places (7 in Bucharest and 5 in Tg. Mures), and National Administration of Prisons - 8 places for general medicine (5 places in Bucharest and 3 in Tg. Mures), 2 places for dental medicine. As tuition figures rise, by the order of the Ministry of National Defense, in 2018, the institute has 20 places approved for doctors who will become officers through indirect activation.

For all the conducted activities, we enjoy an excellent collaboration with military hospitals and operative military units, as well as with civil universities. Thus, we can form and perfect military doctors for our hospitals and units, who are always ready to take part in international missions.

It is known that the performing armies of the world have never hesitated to show their skill, equipment and combative force. We also adhere to this direction, going out in public space every time we have the chance.

The image of the Institute if promoted by all means (press, radio, television, Internet). The students of the Institute participate in military ceremonies, charity events or blood donating activities, and activities which promote the military doctor profession in civil and military high-schools.

In the future, we wish to maintain and even ascend this standard of medical and military training through which our students have always stood out. We will stress the importance of developing the capacity and appetite for learning, of creativity, and of creating the profile of a military doctor that is receptive to all that is new, always willing to be involved, ready for action, competent and competitive. The future belong to these young people and for this, we do all that is in our power to form them as medical doctors of great value for the Romanian Army.