

EVALUATION OF THE STUDY RESULTS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY PROGRAMS AT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OSIJEK, CROATIA

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Postgraduate medical education at the School of Medicine University J.J. Strossmayer started in academic year 2000/2001 when Scientific Postgraduate Study in Biomedicine and Health has been established.

In the past, research activities were not necessary conducted via formal scientific projects funded by funding agencies (such as Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MSES)) but in more informal ways via mainly clinical research. Due to implementation of Bologna process in Croatian higher education, in 2005/2006 a new Postgraduate Doctoral Study in Biomedicine and Health was introduced. One of the goals of new study program is to increase the number of theses done at the basis of scientific research projects, conducted at the School of Medicine. In 2002-2006, 21 scientific projects were funded by MSES (11 in clinical sciences, 9 in basic medical sciences, and 1 in public health). Since 2007, 28 projects were funded by MSES; 13 clinically based projects, 12 in basic medical studies and 3 projects in public health.

To qualify for a mentor, one has to have academic position at the university and be scientifically active by regularly publishing papers and participating at the scientific projects. Based on these criteria, there are 87 available mentors at the moment, but only 21 were active mentors who published 406 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international and homeland journals in last 3 years.

Since 2000, 365 students have been enrolled in postgraduate programs, 238 in old and 127 in new doctoral program (last are still thought classes and are not evaluated here). 1/3 of students enrolled into old program finished it (53 students with dissertation thesis defense and 14 with MSc thesis defense). 20/53 dissertations and 1/14 masters were results of direct work at the scientific projects (11/20 from clinical and 9/20 are from basic sciences projects). New PhDs published 297 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.