

MARTIN DECLARATION

on PhD study in Medical Sciences

ORPHEUS Workshop „PhD Study from the Student Views“ organised by the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Comenius University in Slovakia held on October 11-13, 2012, was focussed on characterisation of problems of PhD study in preclinical and particularly in clinical disciplines at medical faculties and looking for ways how to improve quality of the process and the outcomes.

The participants unanimously supported ORPHEUS-AMESE-WFME Standards and after two days of critical discussion with intensive participation of PhD students they came to conclusions related to the present status of PhD programmes in Martin. Especially in relation to clinical research, they came to conclusions and recommendations which are of more general significance.

In many European countries most of PhD students in medical sciences are clinical MDs or other professionals working directly with patients. In relation to this and after presentations and discussions, participants have concluded and agreed on the following:

- PhD programmes in clinical disciplines are specific in their mission to educate clinical doctors to be capable of independent and original research work with application to diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive medical practice.
- Ethical considerations and principles are of utmost importance for any researcher working with human beings, and must be emphasized in such PhD programmes, in line with ORPHEUS declaration from Helsinki.
- PhD education in clinical disciplines needs to be carried out together with deepening of the knowledge in relevant clinical specialization discipline. The participants of the Workshop recommend to look for appropriate integrative methods of the education to research and specialization. Workshop recommends to ORPHEUS to organise more intensive discussions about PhD/internship programmes. Exchange of best practice from all over Europe might have profound influence.
- The need to communicate with patients in the official languages and requirement for clinical work makes mobility more difficult for clinicians than for PhD students in other disciplines. To overcome this, more short term exchange and short term scholarship should be available.
- Participants appreciate support of PhD education from EU sources.

On behalf of the participants of the ORPHEUS Workshop organised by the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Comenius University.



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Prof. Jan Danko, MD, PhD
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