

**DEAN'S ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, Ss. CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE**

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The Faculty of Medicine, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, celebrates the 75th anniversary this year.

The Faculty of Medicine, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, was established with the Decree of the Government of the People's Republic of Macedonia on 6th of March 1947. Seven and a half decades ago, on 17th of March 1947 the first session of the newly founded Teaching Council of the Faculty of Medicine was held in the premises of the General (County) Hospital.

The teaching staff at that time consisted of 19 teachers and 3 assistant teachers who conducted courses in several preclinical and clinical subjects. In spite of the limited staff capacities, the determination to provide a serious and extensive educational corpus in duration of 12 semesters with 41 subjects has shown the pioneering resolution of the founder members and has confirmed the primordial truth that pioneer faith is needed in any period of time in order to accomplish a noble goal.

In the autumn of 1947, on 3rd of November, the first generation of 153 students at the newly founded Faculty of Medicine in Skopje had their first academic class.

Six years later, on 30th of December 1953, the first six graduates were awarded the degree doctor of medicine in the premises of the Macedonian National Theatre.

In the following period, the Faculty has permanently developed its human mission. For seventy-five years the Faculty of Medicine has held a prominent place in the educational, scientific and health development of the Republic of Macedonia. The Faculty has in continuity demonstrated high competency, generously offering the intellectual potential in the field of medicine. From a historical perspective, throughout the entire existence and work, the Faculty of Medicine has consistently followed, implemented and upgraded the modern scientific knowledge and achievements. With the Faculty's key commitment to continuously develop equally the educational, scientific-research and health activities, we have unequivocally proved that the Faculty in the past decades has built an outstanding position in our country and that the graduate doctors, specialists in different branches of medicine, masters of science and doctors of medical sciences, deans, rectors, vice-rectors, academicians, ministers, delegates have given exceptional contribution to the development of the University, but also in many other segments of the social life in our country and beyond. Thus, today, the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Faculty's founding is a tribute to the work and efforts of the employees in the past period by which the Faculty has attained a remarkable development, respectable on a wider scale. The

achievements of the Faculty are a proof of the high professionalism and selfless devotion and dedication of its employees as well as of the continued commitment of the managerial boards over the past years. Therefore, this jubilee is a motive for a new mission with which we have to respond to the various challenges of the new era, to continue our work and to provide a bright future for our Faculty in this millennium.

The celebration on the occasion of the 75th anniversary means marking of a historically important date in the calendar of the Macedonian higher education and health. Today, we have with us many esteemed and recognized colleagues who are a constituent and essential segment of the mosaic of events related to this distinguished institution, those who have dedicated the greatest part of their working life to the creation and upgrading of the higher education, those who with their professional contribution and great enthusiasm have given so much to the educational and health activities in our country and have built up an enviable reputation.



For seven and a half decades, the walls of the clinics, institutes, laboratories, libraries have been decorated with recognitions, certificates of gratitude, photographs of teachers and

doctors who are a role model for future generations. Everyone who walks by these photographs feels respect, zealously, eagerness to the legacy of the eminent experts and professors, and a desire to achieve at least part of their fame.

For seventy-five years, generations of professors, students and physicians led by the Hippocratic Oath have applied the principles of the medical ethics.

Throughout the entire past period, the Faculty of Medicine with its history as old as the Geneva convention, has made remarkable achievements in the field of education, science and health. The hope that the message of the founders of the Faculty sent 75 years ago, in those distant turbulent, turmoil and difficult period has been fulfilled. Numerous generations have justified the trust instilled by their predecessors. All of them together have written the medical history of our country and have created a field for the development of the current and future generations. It is a privilege of this generation of employees at the Faculty to work in a prestigious institution, built and developed in the past decades, but at the same time, it is an obligation to follow the example of the predecessors and to continue the line of development and progress of all activities in the years to come.

In order to improve the conditions for the students, patients and employees, in agreement with the European directives and world standards, the Faculty made an enormous enhancement in the past period in all three integrative segments of its work, such as: reconstruction of amphitheaters, laboratories, institutes, new study and specialist programs harmonized with the European ones, financing of scientific-research projects, establishment of a new journal of the Faculty, support of student activities, participation in mobility programs for both students and teaching staff, visits by foreign experts and professors, procurement of modern laboratory equipment, introduction of new diagnostic methods and analyses, accreditation of laboratories, etc.

By developing new ideas and recognizing the dynamic nature of knowledge that contains permanent values, the Faculty of Medicine creates an academic environment in which students acquire knowledge and skills necessary for expertise in their professional activity along with personal integrity and high ethical standards.

Congratulations on the 75th jubilee of our Faculty and wishes for many more years of success and anniversaries.