

EDITORIAL

A Chance for the Romanian Rhinology - the Research Activity

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Giving the economic difficulties that our society passes through, to stay up-to-date with the technological advancement of modern rhinology may become problematic. All the time when we go abroad to important international scientific events, or when we visit major ENT facilities from Europe or US, we come back with the frustrating feeling that we can easily do what our colleagues do, but ... for us one key-thing is missing – modern technologies! At the same time, we see that the important ENT journals publish almost exclusively authors from Western Europe, US, China and Japan. And we wonder – why cannot we perform the same research activities in order to be accepted for publication in these major ENT journals? The answer is more complex, but basically there are two important aspects that need to be underlined: lack of financial motivation for the research activity and, more important, lack of research infrastructure!

What to do in this situation? Most of us do... nothing, or just complain, or try to improvise all the time, sometimes jeopardizing the patient's chance for the best therapeutic strategy or, why not, their medical career. Others try to influence the hospitals managers, asking for what they need in order to do what they are trained to do in the best interest of the patient – but, unfortunately, the answer in almost all situations is quite the same – we do not have enough funds, we cannot afford this, or, in the best-case scenario, they receive some "dust into the eyes", some small things just enough to keep their mouth shut for a while.

Fortunately, I think there is a hope for us, Romanian medical doctors that try to practice medicine in the same manner as our colleagues from the western world. And this chance is called European research funds. The National Authority for Scientific Research

(ANCS) developed a programme for "Development of the existing Research-Development (R&D) infrastructure and creation of new R&D infrastructure (laboratories, research centers)" – Axis 2, POS-CCE.

The Excellency Centre of Endoscopic Surgery in ENT from "Sfanta Maria" Hospital, Bucharest won in the 2013 Competition with a project called "Excellency Centre for the research of the mechanisms of sensitive-sensorial malfunctions and for the study of the inflammatory-infectious, tumoral and obstructive pathology of the upper air-digestive ways/CESITO". The non-refundable value of this project is 20.000.000 RON, excluding VAT.

The main objective of this project is to create a state-of-the-art research facility that will allow us to study the inflammatory and tumoral pathology of the upper airways, together with the respiratory disturbances during sleep, olfactory pathology, salivary gland pathology, vertigo and dizziness, hearing loss, etc. In conclusion, it will allow us to investigate the ENT patient as a whole with modern technology. This will be possible by creation or modernization of nine research laboratories that will be mostly operated by young scientists.

This infrastructure, together with the already established partnerships with Medical Universities from Italy, Great Britain, USA or China that the ENT Clinic from "Sfanta Maria" Hospital has, will allow us to integrate the Romanian ENT research in important International projects.

Another key-point of this project is to train young researchers and to motivate them to stay in our country – having the opportunity to work with similar technologies as the colleagues from abroad. Also, the patients will benefit from this project, having the possibility to have the same diagnostic and therapeutic algorithm as in Western Europe.



The formal signing of the CESITO project in the presence of the Romanian Prime-Minister, Mr. Victor Ponta, the Minister for higher education, scientific research and technological development, Mr. Mihnea Costoiu and the Project Director, Prof. Codrut Sarafoleanu.

And these are just a few of the benefits that can very easily result from a project of this financial magnitude. And all of this because we dared, we tried and we did not give up even if it was difficult! And we are sure that the most difficult part is still to come!

But, I think that this is the right and the only way to try to achieve something, at the present time, for your patient and your professional career in Romania!