

Gender differences in views and expectations from having PhD degree in biomedicine and health sciences at Zagreb University School of Medicine: women seek better jobs, men expect to earn more money

Jadranka Božikov

S. Sović¹*, J. Božikov¹, Z. Lacković²

¹Department of Medical Statistics, Epidemiology and Medical Informatics, Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, Zagreb, Croatia

²Department of Pharmacology, Medical School, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

*Contact details: slavica.sovic@snz.hr

Background

The number of all university diplomas and PhD degrees earned by women showed slope increasing trend during last 30 years in Croatia, while the corresponding numbers for men are stable. The same pattern was observed if only diplomas and PhDs in field of biomedicine and health sciences were considered.

Objectives

PhD programme in biomedicine and health sciences at Zagreb University Medical School is organized in line with Bologna process as a third cycle programme open to both medical doctors and other professionals in field of biomedicine and health sciences. Two generations (2005 and 2006) of PhD programme applicants, 169 male and 271 female, answered questionnaire that includes questions asked them to express their views on (i) efforts and time necessary to devote for obtaining PhD degree and (ii) different opportunities being given to professionals with PhD degree in their field of work.

Results

Distribution of expected time (number of years) needed to complete PhD was shifted towards higher values for women compared with men (mode was four versus three). According to male and female applicants, respectively, PhD owners have better prospects of: professional development/promotion (88.5 and 88.9%); getting leading/managing posts (74.2 and 72.8%); to be respected from colleagues (60.9 and 64.0%); to travel (54.6 and 58.4%); to be respected from general society (47.3 and 55.7%). All these differences were not statistically significant at $P=0.05$, while differences in proportions of positive answers to three remaining questions were statistically significant: to earn more money (67.3% versus 52.1%, $P=0.002$); to find better jobs (48.7% versus 66.8%, $P<0.001$); to find a job abroad (67.1% versus 76.5%, $P=0.045$).

Conclusion

Observed gender differences in applicants' views mirror their expectations and motivation for PhD programme: to earn more money versus chances to get better job after more demanding work on PhD for men and women, respectively.

The training in ethics and bioethics for Romanian medical researchers: why is it necessary?

Ingrid-Laura Gheorghe

I.L. Gheorghe*, M. Moldovan, S. Florescu

National School of Public Health and Health Management, Bucharest, Romania

*Contact details: i.l.gheorghe@gmail.com

Background

The present context in medical clinical research in Romania indicates a new reality: modern studies, starting with now classical ones and finishing with those referring to human genome, are more and more numerous, a lot of projects that touches a lot of sensitive points related to ethics and bioethics are unfolded, this in the conditions the knowledge of the researchers in this domain is not so high.

Objectives

The study, unfolded within 6 months, tried to evaluate the real needs for training in ethics and bioethics for the researchers, by applying comprehensive questionnaires among 120 medical researchers and interviews with key persons, in order to assess

the need for training. After integration of the results were designed the main points of the future curricula of ethics and bioethics of medical research.

Results

The results of the qualitative study indicated in high measure the necessity that the Romanian medical researchers to learn about the international codes of ethics and its specifications, the role and the demands of ethical commission and the rules the research must takes into account, about the principles, the informed consent, in order to develop and unfold real correct researches.

Conclusions

Good-quality training, enhanced by legislation, in ethical domain is imperative for Romanian medical researchers. This training should be at least a 2 weeks-long one, intensive, with practical examples, focused on the main points concerning the ethics of research and bioethics. A new curricula and textbook are to be developed and piloted based on the needs of the medical researchers and this should be the role of the National School of Public Health and Health Management and its collaborators. This will create and flatten a new pathway for Romanian medical research.

Postgraduate education in international health—the experience of the tropEd network

Carsten Mantel

CF Mantel¹*, P. Millet², B. Peterhans³, M. Dithmer⁴, N. Casamitjana⁵

¹Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Berlin, Germany

²Université Bordeaux 2, France

³Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland

⁴University of Copenhagen, Denmark

⁵University of Barcelona, Spain

*Contact details: carsten.mantel@charite.de

Since 1998, the tropEd network (www.troped.org), an association of 35 European, African, Asian and Latin American universities, has been providing postgraduate opportunities for education and training contributing to sustainable development. Its approach is based on the mobility of students and teachers, the exchange of experiences in different disciplines and the establishment of international high-quality standards in education.

Objectives of the tropEd Masters programme in International Health are the acquisition of knowledge, skills and of the ability to critically analyse and draw implications for practice related to major endemic diseases, health systems, health economics, health policy and management of health services. Harmonized core courses are offered in nine European universities. Students then enrol in advanced modules in all network institutions. The programme can be studied on a full- or part-time basis. Transfer of course or thesis credits is based on the ECTS and degrees are offered together with a Diploma Supplement. Quality assurance of all teaching provision is done through a peer-reviewed network accreditation system.

Partner institutions in Asia (China, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam), Africa (South Africa, Tanzania) and Latin America (Mexico) have recently joined the network as collaborating institutions and offer a wealth of innovative technical, educations as well as cultural opportunities.

More than 500 students (roughly 50% from overseas) have enrolled in the programme so far and more than 250 have successfully completed their studies and now form an active alumni body. In 2003, a consortium of tropEd network institutions was selected by the European Commission as one of the first Erasmus Mundus partnerships and is now able to provide highly attractive scholarships to well-qualified third-country and European students.

Students greatly benefit from the programme as it stimulates new ways of thinking, extends language-learning skills, provides exposure to new learning methods, develops permanent network links across continents and provides a considerable 'added value' to graduates' CVs.