



10th anniversary
of Kosovo Doctors
Chamber

10 Years of Work and Dedication

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- Ferid Agani
- Salih Berisha
- Imet Rrahmani
- Ramin Parsa - Parsi
- Domen Podnar
- Zylfije Hundozi
- Fatmir Brahimaj
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ODA E MJEKËVE TË KOSOVËS
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KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER - CHALLENGES



Pleurat Sejdiu

President of Kosovo Doctors Chamber

The Kosovo Doctors Chamber, established 10 years ago, faced many challenges and problems until reaching the self-governance stage.

The path to the establishment of the Doctors Chamber and independence, or as it is known in the modern concept as self-governance of doctors to develop their activity, was not easy at all, but this goal was achieved after many challenges and difficulties and with the indisputable help and political will of the governments of the Republic of Kosovo

As a result of the unsatisfactory situation in healthcare and to implement reforms sanctioned by law, in 2018 began the transfer of powers on professional ethical oversight, licensing and relicensing and continuing professional education of health professionals, from the Ministry of Health to the Kosovo Doctors Chamber.

During these years with many challenges and difficulties in the implementation of the laws in force, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, through its members, upheld and engaged in ensuring high standards of the code of ethics and medical deontology, promoting and protecting the activity of health professionals in public, private as well as public-private health institutions, ensuring and facilitating continuous professional education with the aim of enhancing performance and providing better quality healthcare services.

An extraordinary contribution to the establishment and institutional development of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has been given by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg through the Kosovo Health Project, the sister chambers of Germany, Croatia and recently the CPME - Standing Committee of European Doctors.

The first step of the operationalization of the Chamber was membership registration, a process which started only 4 years after the birth of the Chamber, in February 2018, and now the number of members of the KDC has reached a total of 5,299 doctors.

During these years, the Chamber has organized and financed 59 activities with over 23,000 participants.

In addition to these tasks, the KDC, through public campaigns, roundtables, debates, interviews and public reactions, has given special importance to the public fight against the stigmatization of health workers and doctors in particular. Such stigmatization, verbal and physical attacks and mudslinging, have unfortunately become a recurring phenomenon.

Likewise, the KDC, through its potential, has offered assistance and cooperation to all govern-

ment bodies in terms of shaping and implementing health reforms, but not only. Unfortunately, we have not always encountered the will to cooperate as partners!

The dedication of our doctor has already been proven, for years and decades now, through their sacrifices at rallies, the punishments and political persecution, war, and finally the pandemic, which also took 21 of our colleagues.

Therefore, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber is and will always be at the service of doctors and the shield of those honorable doctors who are an example of dedication and sacrifice, as an inseparable part of society and its needs and ailments.

"Ubi cumque amatur ars medica, ibi amor humanitatis" (Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity), Hippocrates would have said.

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KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER - THE FIRST SUCCESS OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM



Ferid Agani

Former Minister of Health

My political goal, since the first days of my mandate as Minister of Health in 2011, was to establish one of the three main pillars of the country's healthcare system reform, the pillar of well-organized professional human resources that would be able to carry the increased public responsibility of healthcare professionals in the reform process, both towards citizens and towards relevant local and international institutions. We successfully achieved this goal through the collaborative partnership between the Ministry of Health, professional associations in the field of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and physiotherapy, trade union organizations in these fields, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency and the German Medical Association. At the end of the rather complex process, which on the one hand included the legislative component and on the other the organizational and managerial component, with the Law on Chambers of Health Professionals, adopted on July 4, 2013, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber was established for the first time in the history of Kosovo healthcare, as the first of five professional chambers. This was the first success of the newly launched healthcare reform.

I consider that the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has fulfilled the objectives defined by Kosovo's healthcare strategy and the legislation in force. On the one hand it enabled the organizational and functional integration of Kosovo doctors, and on the other hand provided mechanisms for their continuous professional development. By ensuring quality, well-controlled processes of registration and licensing of doctors on the one hand, and their specialization and sub-specialization on the other hand, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has fulfilled its public role by advancing the professional, ethical and moral qualities of its members, as well as by articulating the specific interests of doctors in the healthcare reform process and relevant social processes.

Currently, the main challenge faced by the Doctors Chamber is to strengthen its role in the process of continuing the healthcare reform,

interrupted in 2015, as the only process that will create hope for the rapid advancement of Kosovo healthcare, overcoming current difficulties, and the substantial improvement of the professional and material perspective of Kosovo doctors. I consider that the Doctors Chamber should be much more vocal and more determined in the demands for the implementation of the legislation in force that regulates the other two pillars of healthcare reform, the Law on Health (family medicine services and the Hospital and Clinical University Service of Kosovo) and the Health Insurance Law that regulates the operation of the Health Insurance Fund. I think that this is the vital interest of doctors and the priority task of their representative organization at this time of serious stagnation in Kosovo healthcare.

The Doctors Chamber should be transformed into a promoter and generator of healthcare reform in the country, the first result of which has been its own establishment; it is this historical responsibility which, I am convinced, Kosovo doctors, together with the professionals in other health chambers, will successfully fulfill. The Kosovo Doctors Chamber will be able to realize all its transformative potential only in the circumstances of a reformed healthcare system, hence, insisting on the immediate continuation of the reform interrupted in 2015, through the transformation of the HCUSK into a central level public enterprise and the full operationalization of the Health Insurance Fund, represents an imperative of the times.

I vividly remember the day, when I was no longer Minister of Health, and I entered the premises of the Chamber as a doctor, to fulfill my legal obligations of re-licensing. It was a great pleasure to see a political vision successfully realized. For this, I would like to sincerely thank all my colleagues, local and international, the leadership of the Chamber, and especially my colleagues, doctors of all professional profiles, who fulfilled my political vision with complete success.

May God bless the Kosovo Doctors Chamber.



Signing the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology

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THE KDC NEEDS TO BE EMPOWERED AS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION FOR THE DOCTORS PROFESSIONAL BODY



Salih Berisha

One of the initiators and contributors to the establishment of the KDC

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Dr. Salih Berisha, a doctor at the Oberarzt, Facharzt für Chirurgie und Gefäßchirurgie in Germany, is one of the first initiators for the establishment of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber. On the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the KDC, he tells about how the idea for the establishment of this chamber was born, the contributors from Germany and the cooperation with the health authorities of Kosovo for the creation of the organization that will represent Kosovo doctors.

Dr. Berisha, with whom was this idea first discussed and what were the initial expectations? Who were the foreign experts who, along with you, helped establish the Kosovo Doctors Chamber?

I have led a very noble and productive professional collaboration project in the field of General Surgery between the University Clinic of Mannheim and that of Prishtina, for eight years. Surgery dominated, but there were also many other medical fields included in the project with a financial volume close to two million Euros.

In 2010 (Deutsche Ärzteblatt, 08/2010) I wrote and published together with my friends and supporters an article about this project, which was also sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office. A few days after this article was published, I was contacted from Berlin (Bundesärztekammer Berlin - German Medical Association) by Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi, head of the Foreign Relations Department, and Domen Podnar, senior referent in this department. We had a long teleconference about the organization of Kosovo doctors and healthcare in Kosovo. They were surprised as to why no representative from Kosovo participated in any of the many international meetings that they organize. The conclusion from the first conversation with them was to understand if there is a KDC in Kosovo and if not, how can we be activated to make something like this happen?

Seeing the substantial importance of the project, I reached out and obtained direct information from the NIPHK, from Prof. Naser Ramadani and Prof. Isuf Dedushaj; from the UCCK; from the MoH; from the Government of Kosovo (from Dr. Shaip Muja, advisor to the Prime Minister for Health at that time); and I learned that there was no Kosovo Doctors Chamber in Kosovo. Following this, I, Dr. Shaip, Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi and Domen Podnar, took the initiative to establish a chamber that represents Kosovo doctors. Behind us strongly stood the institutes where we worked at that time: University of Mannheim, Clinic of Surgery with my then boss Prof. Dr. Stefan Post giving me the green light. Berlin took over the coordination of the work. First, we scheduled many meetings in Kosovo for September 2010, such as with the German Ambassador; with Dr.

Bujar Bukoshi, Minister of Health; Dr. Shaip Muja, the Governing Board of the UCCK, NIPHK, the EU Office in Prishtina; Kosova College of Surgeons, etc.

In the meantime, the Government of Kosovo fell and a few months later a new Government was in office (January 2011) and the new Minister of Health was appointed Prof. Dr. Ferid Agani. He promised that the project for the Chamber will be finalized with the establishment of the KDC.

Minister Agani was invited to Berlin (Bundesärztekammer - German Medical Association) and was a special guest at the 114th Assembly of the German Medical Association held in Kiel, May 31-June 3, 2011. There I met for the first time with Minister Agani and as a mediator I communicated to him in a friendly manner all the noble will and friendly German interest, and above all the necessity of a doctors chamber in Kosovo.

2011 and 2012 demanded a lot of work in Kosovo and Germany. Activities peaked with the Symposium at the Emerald Hotel with the presence of Prof. Frank Montgomery, President of the Bundesärztekammer, Prof. Stefan Post, director of the University Clinic of Surgery in Mannheim, University of Heidelberg, Dr. Rudolf Henke, delegate to the German Bundestag and simultaneously chair of the Marburger-Bund - the Union of Physicians in Germany, Dr. Ottmar Kloiber, Secretary General of the World Medical Association in Geneva, many other guests from Germany, the German Ambassador in Kosovo and, of course, Dr. Ramin Parsa-Parsi, Domen Podnar, and Dr. Salih Berisha.

It was an intense period of establishing the legal basis and other documents for the chamber. Here, that is, in Berlin, the Law and the statute of the KDC were drafted. We have studied in detail, with two German lawyers in Berlin, its compatibility with the Constitution of Kosovo and its civil and criminal codes, as well as compatibility with the relevant European laws, leaving no room for misinterpretation.

In June 2013, the Law on Chambers of Health Professionals was approved by the Assembly of Kosovo and then decreed by the President of Kosovo. The rest then continued with the holding of the elections and the founding Assembly of the KDC, holding on October 17 the elections for the Assembly of the KDC at the level of institutions, while on November 10, Prof. Dr. Zylfje Hundozi was elected first president of the KDC by the Assembly composed of members of the Chamber and senior delegations from respective chambers from Germany and many other countries.

Of course, during this time there were also periods of failure and problems in the transfer of

powers, but the Chamber continued and on December 1, 2017, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu was elected the new president of the KDC, after Prof. Hundozi completed her mandate, and this electoral assembly led to optimism about the further development of the KDC.

How would you evaluate KDC's development so far and, in your opinion, what are its achievements?

I get my insights from the press and public opinion, or through personal contacts. Overall, I like them quite a lot, because a lot of substantial work has been done.

Considering the difficulties faced by an organization born 'sui generis' like the KDC, as opposed to the German Association which is more than 120 years old, it has been a fruitful and impressive collaboration, although much work still needs to be done.

What are, in your opinion, the challenges the KDC faces today, what would you have suggested for the further development of the Chamber, and what should its future be like?

Its stabilization, its perception as the only and most powerful organization for the professional body of doctors in terms of growth, preservation and professional protection of the medical academic identity. Also, its presence in each setting and decision-making meeting that affects the interests of doctors; regulation and complete control of the professional education and training of its members on an ongoing basis; enhancement of infrastructural and human capacities within the KDC; communication with civil society and continuous contacts with them for a healthy and emancipated society...

Being the co-founder of this noble chamber, it would never occur to me not to be willing to cooperate with them. The desire to see the Chamber become highly professional, is so dominant that I don't know what would have to happen to not exchange my/our experience with the KDC.



The first legislature of the Assembly of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber

WORKING FOR KOSOVO'S PATIENTS - A STRONG MEDICAL SELF - GOVERNANCE FOSTERS QUALITY IN HEALTHCARE



Ramin Parsa- Parsi

One of the initiators and contributors to the establishment of the KDC

*Head of Department,
German Medical Association*

Self-governance is based on a framework provided by the legislator. Those who are entrusted with establishing the system of self-governance – namely, the medical profession itself – shape and continuously develop the structures as deemed necessary and appropriate.

A legal framework for self-governance in Kosovo's health system was not a foregone conclusion. However, 10 years after the establishment of the medical chamber, there is undeniable proof that it is a success story. Granting health professionals a voice and assigning them important and relevant tasks disburdens the government and national administration of many organisational and educational tasks relating to the medical profession, strengthens medical professionalism and postgraduate medical education and enhances the quality of healthcare provision.

It is no easy task to bring people with different views and responsibilities together, and the struggle to find common solutions can also be tedious. Despite these challenges, self-governance has proven to be a very sustainable approach in Kosovo.

It was a forward-looking decision by the then Minister of Health to listen to many different voices, to take established European self-governance systems into consideration, and to entrust the committed stakeholders and service providers in the health sector with the management of certain tasks. It has not only strengthened the health professions, and indeed the health system as a whole, but also rendered a great service to Kosovar society. At the same time, the minister has embraced a concept for organising health professionals that had already proven to be effective in Germany, Poland, Austria, as well as in many closer neighbouring countries. Kosovo became part of a broader regional tradition.

In just a few years, the medical chamber has become a strong player in Kosovo, confidently representing the country's physicians and actively participating in European and international meetings.

At the start of the process, the then Minister of Health of Kosovo, Professor Ferid Agani, officially asked the German Medical Association to provide guidance and support through the process of establishing the medical chamber. From our perspective, the numerous discussions we had with the ministry formed a good basis for drafting a legal framework and the establishment of a system of medical self-governance in Kosovo.

During this same period, we were also in constant contact with various bodies in Kosovo and their representatives, such as the German ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, representatives from the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo, members of the Kosovar parliament and representatives from the Faculty of Medicine at

the University of Pristina.

On every visit to Kosovo since 2010, there have been consultations with the Minister of Health and the responsible ministry staff on a variety of subjects, from the progress of implementation of the medical chamber, to the training of physicians and continuing medical education (CME) in Germany.

For example, in preparation for the establishment of the various chambers, the Ministry of Health organised a meeting with about 50 health professionals. The German Medical Association was privileged to attend the meeting as well and supported the 15 elected physicians' representatives in attendance in their future work. In 2012, Minister Ferid Agani also took us on an informative tour of Kosovo. We visited health facilities in Peja, Prizren, Pristina, Mitrovica and Gjilan to provide the medical profession and other health professionals with information about the system of medical self-governance and to respond to questions and concerns. Successful implementation of self-governance requires the full support and appreciation of its respective profession.

Therefore, it was not only a great honour for us to be part of this delegation but also a necessary step toward building trust in this system among medical professionals in Kosovo. We were also able to offer our expertise and support with regards to implementing the structures of medical self-governance and provide a line of communication to the Federal Ministry of Health in Germany.

In the end, however, it was the stakeholders in Kosovo who had to find their own way to establish an appropriate framework to meet the unique needs of their medical profession.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministers of Health Professor Ferid Agani, Imet Rrahmani and Uran Ismaili had all attended the German Medical Assembly. During these assemblies, we were able to organise meetings or meet-and-greets with the German Federal Ministers of Health, Hermann Gröhe and Jens Spahn. The official exchange certainly further strengthened the cooperation between us. From the beginning, the Ministry of Health and its leadership were very receptive to the idea of self-governance and to cooperating with the German Medical Association. We greatly appreciated this fruitful and trusting cooperation which permitted an open and honest dialogue.

This is not to say that it wasn't challenging for the ministry to manage the delegation of tasks. And it should not be forgotten that there were also preservationists within the system who were sceptical about such a transfer of power.

The process of self-governance is a constant work in progress. It requires a strong chamber

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to remain a relevant partner for the government and to advocate for the evolving interests and needs of physicians and most importantly our patients.



During the constitutive Assembly of the first legislation, 2013



SELF- GOVERNANCE REQUIRES A SELF- CONFIDENT MEDICAL PROFESSION

**Domen Podnar**

One of the initiators and contributors to the establishment of the KDC

*Policy Advisor,
Department for International
Affairs German Medical Association*

When a small delegation of the German Medical Association (GMA) travelled to Kosovo for the first time in 2010, we did not know what the outcome would be. The initiative for the first visit was twofold. On the one hand, some dedicated members and organisations of the German medical profession, including the Hans Neuffer Foundation, which is closely affiliated with the GMA, asked the GMA's Department for International Affairs for information about how the medical profession in Kosovo was organised. On the other hand, there were increasing enquiries from our members about the basic medical education, specialty training, continuing medical education (CME) and continuing professional development (CPD) of migrating physicians from Kosovo, which made us realise that we did not have a contact in the medical profession in Kosovo with whom we could exchange information.

In Germany, the State Chambers of Physicians are responsible for issuing specialist medical diplomas. The German Medical Association, as the working group of the State Chambers of Physicians in Germany, helps provide its members with contacts and information about the various structures of the medical profession and healthcare systems abroad. The initial aim of our visit was therefore to find out more about the medical profession in Kosovo.

After reading an article in the GMA's main medical journal, the *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, about CME events from the University of Mannheim in Pristina, we contacted the co-organiser of the events, Dr Salih Berisha, and planned a visit to Kosovo together in 2010. Dr Berisha brought together a small group of physicians who met with us to explain the situation facing physicians in Kosovo and how the profession is organised. Initial discussions were also held with political decision-makers who were contacts of Dr Berisha. These discussions became more in-depth over time and were followed by a joint CME event for Kosovar physicians in Pristina in 2011, which drew around 300 participants. It was intended to show the broad spectrum of medical self-governance to the Kosovar medical profession.

Talking to political decision-makers was an important aspect, but it was even more crucial to win over physicians to the concept of medical self-governance and to demonstrate to them that it was and is up to them to take responsibility for their profession and their patients. Without dedicated physicians, medical self-governance cannot succeed. After the Ministry of Health officially requested support for setting up self-governance structures in Kosovo, part of our work involved motivating and advising the physicians who would be integral to the establishment of these structures. Together with Dr Berisha, the German Hans Neuffer Foundation and LuxDevelopment, which played a crucial role in develop-

ing the financial framework in consultation with the GMA, we were able to accomplish a lot.

One successful outcome, for example, were the training sessions held at the headquarters of the GMA in Berlin geared toward healthcare professionals and employees of the Ministry of Health in Kosovo and focused on the process of establishing the various health professionals' chambers. The programme included lectures by GMA's experts, as well as a visit to the Berlin Chamber of Physicians. The focus at the Berlin Chamber of Physicians was on the organisational requirements and the implementation of the tasks of a chamber of physicians. The contribution of the former Secretary General of the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony, Dr Verena Diefenbach, and a representative of the chamber's legal department, who gave an overview of the experience of setting up the chamber structures in Saxony in the early 1990s, proved to be extremely valuable. The Saxony Health Professions Chamber Act was recommended as a template for the laws in Kosovo. Albanian translations of important German legal texts and other legal foundations of the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony were also made available.

The joint tour of the country's regional hospitals with the Minister of Health of Kosovo, Prof. Ferid Agani, in that same year also served to strengthen the commitment of the physicians toward building their chamber. In a four-hour meeting with representatives of the health professions, we then discussed the next steps of this process.

We also met with the election committee before the first medical chamber election and were impressed by how professionally they carried out their work and how full of anticipation they were in the run-up to these elections. On the occasion of the first chamber assembly, we organised conference with international participants. It was overwhelming to see how many international representatives from the region expressed their support of the future work of the Medical Chamber in Kosovo. It was a solemn moment when the first president of the Medical Chamber of Kosovo, Dr Zylfije Hundozi, was elected, which we celebrated in a large gathering.

It was important to put the medical profession in the position to organise itself. Without this and the commitment of the leadership, including Dr Zylfije Hundozi and Dr Pleurat Sejdu, this would not have been possible. In the process, we observed that the resistance from the Ministry was quite strong once it was foreseen which tasks the medical chamber would take on. In the early years, a great deal of energy went into these disputes. In fact, they strongly impacted Dr Hundozi's term in office. Dr Hundozi was very committed and defended the idea of self-governance of the medical profession. However, the disputes played an important role in strengthen-

ing the chamber's will to shape its own fate and toward obtaining essential financial resources. Despite these challenges, the second chamber elections were carried out successfully and professionally after the four years term. This sign of continuity and the persistent commitment of Dr Pleurat Sejdu then led to a consolidation of the work of the medical chamber, the further delegation of tasks and increased professionalisation of the organisation. I was very impressed during a visit in 2019 at how much the team in the office has grown and specifically how young, committed and well-trained staff had been recruited for the work of the medical chamber. Certainly, the support of Dr Aferdita Ademi from LuxDevelopment and Dr Berisha must always be taken into account here.

There has also been a great focus on integrating the Medical Chamber of Kosovo into European and other international bodies. For example, representatives of the medical chamber have regularly been invited by the GMA to the annual German Medical Assemblies, as well as to the meetings of the Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians, known as the annual ZEVA Symposium. The Medical Chamber of Kosovo also achieved an important milestone when it was granted observer status in the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME).

Through the hard work of the dedicated physicians both inside and outside of the chamber's bodies, a strong medical chamber was thus established, which continues

to contribute its voice both domestically and at the European level. Over all these years, it has been remarkable to see how the commitment of physicians has grown since the structures were built. Mindful of the weaker structures of civil society they had experienced in the past, physicians and their leaders very quickly and sustainably understood the importance of forming an independent, self-confident organisation which represents physicians and advocates for patients. The physicians of Kosovo have seized their opportunity and established a strong voice, and I am sure that this will continue into the future. Congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Medical Chamber of the Republic of Kosovo: You can be proud of your work.



The visit of the representative from the German Medical Association to the Kosovo Doctors Chamber



The president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, Dr. Pleurat Sejdu shares gratitude for the German Medical Chamber representative, Mr. Domen Podnar.

THE KDC IS FULFILLING ITS MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Zylfije Hundozi

Former KDC President

The first president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, Prof. Dr. Zylfije Hundozi says that when she ran for this position, her goal was to contribute to the construction of an institution where doctors will have full independence in regulating issues in their work, but at the same time cooperate with other relevant institutions to accomplish the duties and responsibilities provided by law.

What was the feeling of being the first president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber?

During many years of work in healthcare, I have had various experiences and challenges. The events that had an extraordinary impact on Kosovar medicine were those of the early 90s. At the beginning of these years, Kosovar medicine suffered a big blow from the then Milosevic regime, with the aim of destroying Kosovar medicine. A large number of Albanian doctors, who were the majority of doctors in healthcare institutions, were fired by this regime. This led to 90 percent of the doctors being excluded from most of the clinics of the UCCK, while clinics such as Gynecology, Surgery and Internal medicine were left without Albanian doctors. All Albanian doctors were severely impacted by this attack on medical institutions, therefore, on the occasion of my election as president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, I felt privileged, that I was being given the opportunity to contribute to the construction of a new independent medical institution where doctors will have the opportunity to decide about their work, continuing education and their future. In those moments, I felt that I and other KDC colleagues were being given the opportunity to improve an injustice that was done to us doctors when they pushed us out of public institutions, but at the same time to be able, from now on, to make independent decisions about work and all other matters of importance for Kosovo doctors.

So, to put it briefly, it was a feeling of joy and responsibility for the creation of a new institution of great importance in Kosovar medicine.

What prompted you to compete for this task, and what were the first steps in the establishment of the KDC, given that it was a new organization in Kosovo?

Some specialists from the Neurology clinic had come to talk with me, suggesting that I run for KDC president. I didn't give them an answer at first, promising that I would first read the Law on Chambers of Healthcare Professionals, since the KDC did not exist before and I was not informed of what is expected from the president of the KDC.

After reading the law, which clearly defined the duties, obligations and responsibilities of the

president, but also of all other members, I agreed to run. So, my goal was to contribute to the construction of an institution where doctors will have full independence in regulating issues in their work, but at the same time cooperate with other relevant institutions to accomplish the duties and responsibilities provided by law.

How would you evaluate KDC's development so far and, in your opinion, what are its achievements?

I see the development of the KDC in a positive light. The KDC has managed to function with almost all of its powers, with the exception of specializations, which under the Law on Chambers of Healthcare Professionals are its responsibility. I hope it will continue to perform this function in the future.

Is the KDC fulfilling its mission and responsibilities defined by law?

Yes, the KDC is fulfilling its mission and responsibilities under the law.

What, in your opinion, were the challenges faced by the KDC in the first years of its establishment and strengthening, and what are they now?

In the first years of its operation, the KDC had many challenges. For the first three years, the KDC budget was allocated to the Ministry of Health, with the condition that that budget be given to the KDC in the meantime for use. However, in the four years of operation of the KDC, that budget was not awarded to the KDC under different pretexts and demands for health professionals. A lot of time and effort has been spent to meet the Ministry's demands, but the budget dedicated to the KDC has never been used. I and the members of the KDC have been working on a voluntary basis for 4 consecutive years. Due to the lack of budget, we did not have administrative staff or lawyers, but we ourselves compiled all the regulations, the Statute, and all the necessary legal documentation. I should mention the tireless work and unreserved dedication of the members of the Steering Council, the members of the commissions and all the members of the KDC Assembly, for their great dedication to the functioning of this institution. The very strong will and desire to have our own independent institution has led all doctors to give indisputable support to the KDC.

Our work and commitment to the establishment of the bodies of the KDC has not enjoyed the support of the Ministry of Health, but on the contrary, the continuous refusal to transfer the budget and public powers that by law have been assigned to the KDC, although we have consistently met all the criteria set under the law. To

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this day, despite all the rejection and negative pressure that has been placed on it, the KDC has continued to exist and has managed to continue its work, just as the Law on Health Professionals has foreseen.

What would you have suggested for the further development of the Chamber, and what should its future be like?

The KDC has so far performed very well in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities provided by law. My suggestion would be that future elections for members of the KDC Assembly be more transparent, and to address the shortcomings that have accompanied this process. This would increase confidence in the KDC and its bodies and lead to even greater success.

The KDC needs a facility where it will be possible to increase and further develop its capacity as an independent institution. We fought for this since the first mandate, contacting many donors who would help us in this direction, since the material opportunities did not exist then.

The KDC must continue its commitment to carry all the powers that belong to it under the law. Specifically, I am thinking about specializations,

which are its responsibility under the law, because in all European countries the respective doctors chamber are responsible for specializations. Planning the needs for the number of specialist doctors, determining the mentors who will guide the specialists, and the programs, would be best done by the experts from the KDC.

What would you like to share with the readers from your experience as president for one term of the KDC?

One of my experiences at the head of the KDC is from holding the 2nd assembly of the KDC when the election of the members of the Steering Council and then of the commissions of the KDC was held.

With these elections, doctors have shown a high level of democratic culture. In the competition that took place, doctors showed a high intellectual and moral level that was a positive example for the entire Kosovar society. The democratic and fair competition that has accompanied these elections has created a sense of pride that I am a doctor and that I am part of this community.

The positive impression I experienced that day still lives in my mind.



The selection of the first President of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber

THE KDC WAS THE MISSING LINK IN THE ORGANIZATION IN KOSOVO'S HEALTHCARE



Imet Rrahmani

Former Minister of Health

The Kosovo Doctors Chamber was the missing link in the institutional, structural and professional organization of Kosovo's healthcare. This is what former Minister of Health Imet Rrahmani says. He emphasizes that today, the KDC must continue to develop healthy relations with its members, to increase reliability and credibility, and that we have an obligation to keep politics out of its organization and spirit.

How would you evaluate KDC's development so far and, in your opinion, what are its achievements?

For many years, the KDC was the missing link in the institutional, structural and professional organization of Kosovo's healthcare. Therefore, its very existence, current organization and functioning in the circumstances we find ourselves in, can be considered as an achievement. The KDC has also successfully organized elections and operationalized its bodies, not only once, has established a licensing and re-licensing system that must be praised, without forgetting the commitment in addressing doctors' issues, within their competences.

What was the cooperation between the MoH and KDC during your mandate as Minister?

The development stage of the KDC and the circumstances in that period were full of challenges, not sufficiently understood, sometimes with exhaustive debates, always in order to find the best solutions within the law and the competences of both the KDC and MoH. I remember that there has never been a lack of commitment on the part of the staff in the Ministry, including the political part, in creating the conditions for the KDC to become functional as soon as possible with full powers according to the Law on Chambers of Health Professionals.

What are, in your opinion, the challenges the KDC faces today?

The KDC has gone through a phase of operating with a lack of experience. A phenomenon that is burdening the entire society, the departure of doctors to other countries, must be addressed with a very specific and concrete project and activity, not only by the KDC, but also by all the decision-making institutions in the country. The KDC, along with others, should be a catalyst of programs and enterprises, of cooperation with justice bodies, civil society and the media, in order to break the very negative perception of doctors, also contributing to the return of mutual trust in doctor-patient-state institution relations.

What would you have suggested for the further development of the Chamber, and what should its future be like?

The KDC must continue to develop strong relationships with its members first and foremost, to increase credibility and gain support, to become a credible institution within the medical community and for government and professional partners. And lastly, we have an obligation to keep politics out of the organization and spirit of the KDC.

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THE KDC AND OPA EMERGED AS INNOVATIONS IN KOSOVO'S AND ALBANIA'S HEALTHCARE



Fatmir Brahimaj

President of the Order of Physicians of Albania

The President of the Order of Physicians of Albania says the existing differences between these two organizations are conditioned by the respective legal frameworks, which differ in both countries. However, he emphasizes, the mission of both the KDC and OPA is essentially the same: providing the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology, maintaining high professional standards, as well as protecting the public from medical malpractice.

What were the first contacts between the Order of Physicians of Albania and the Kosovo Doctors Chamber?

First of all, I want to thank you for the invitation to this interview, giving me the opportunity to express, not only my pleasure for this joint celebration of the 10th anniversary of KDC's establishment, but also to share some thoughts about the work, achievements, challenges for the future. We are not only of the same profession, but also of the same nation and of the same blood, that's why we see things as common, despite the fact that the desires sometimes do not match the opportunities that are created for us.

One year before KDC's establishment, German Medical Association representatives came to Tirana and discussed with UMSH leaders of that time, the idea of establishing a professional body in Kosovo. We were in favor of supporting this idea (I emphasize that even for OPA, the German Medical Association was an important factor in the first steps of our activities). During that year, representatives of the KDC initiative committee came to Tirana twice to discuss details of further steps towards the crowning of this important initiative for the medical profession in Kosovo. All OPA documentation was employed as a template to draft the basic KDC document. The first official contact was the participation in the founding meeting of the Doctors Chamber in Prishtina.

How would you evaluate KDC's development so far and, in your opinion, what are its achievements?

Of course, like every beginning, there have been great difficulties for the KDC as well. In our countries, these obstacles are multiplied by the lack of tradition, experience, and the mentality of the past, where everything was centered on the state. However, over the years progress has been positive, in favor of doctors, professional self-regulation and the protection of the public from medical professional malpractice. Above all, I appreciate the fact that we have a professional organization of self-governance and self-regulation of the profession, based on a legal framework. Despite delays in establishing the KDC, thanks to the international support of counterparts and the governments of several countries, important steps have been taken and the achievements are commendable and satisfactory for the time. Of

course, what has been done for centuries in other countries cannot be achieved at those levels in short time intervals.

What has the cooperation between the Order of Physicians of Albania and the Kosovo Doctors Chamber amounted to?

Here, I will emphasize that each contact between us and the KDC has been used in the participation, meetings and activities of the two parties, we have supported each other in international meetings by lobbying in our favor, the KDC, and vice versa.

What have these two organizations been able to learn from each other?

Both of these organisms are innovations in the health system of our countries. The common difficulty we face in our realities, as opposed to the level of self-governance and professional self-regulation in other countries, has made us borrow from each other the way of implementing professional practices permissible under the respective legal frameworks; in other words, same problems in similar realities have led to roughly the same type of implementation.

Are there major differences between the way the Order operates in Albania and the KDC in Kosovo?

There are definitely differences between us, conditioned by the respective legal frameworks, which differ in both countries. However, the mission of both the KDC and OPA is essentially the same: providing the Code of Medical Ethics and Deontology, maintaining high professional standards, as well as protecting the public from medical malpractice.

What are, in your opinion, the challenges the KDC faces today?

We must not forget that the KDC is a new, growing and developing body. Numerous efforts must be made to align the relevant legislation with EU acquis, and work must also be done to gain the full trust and authority that belongs to the medical community, as well as the public's trust in them.

What are the joint projects, and what can the Order and the KDC actually acquire through future collaborations?

I appreciate this question in particular, as I think the time has come for cooperation to be at another level, closer and with more joint activities and projects.

What would you have suggested for the further development of the Chamber, and what should its future be like?

Continuous insistence to obtain all the powers that belong to such a fundamentally professional and independent body. Continuous realization

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of short-term and long-term objectives will ensure a successful future, similar to international counterparts.

Do you want to share any of your personal experiences from the events organized by the KDC during these years?

Shared experiences have always given me pleasure. Each activity teaches us something new, that's why I felt privileged to participate in many KDC activities. I will single out the May 2018 meeting in Prishtina, where a very delicate topic, sensitive for the medical community and still unresolved as it seems, that of separating medical error from medical negligence, was discussed. A well organized and quite fruitful meeting that left me with special impressions.



Presidents of KDC and OPA always together

ARTICLE BY THE CROATIAN MEDICAL CHAMBER



Croatian Medical Chamber

The Croatian Medical Chamber always strives to provide support and encourage successful cooperation with international medical chambers and organizations. Therefore, in November 2013.

The Croatian Medical Chamber gladly accepted the invitation to the founding assembly of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, which was held in Priština, Kosovo, where dr. Zylfije Hundozi was elected for the first president of Kosovo Doctors Chamber.

After the assembly, the German Medical Association organized a seminar on organizing doctors, taking an active role in decision-making, caring for patients and the steps ahead of the newly established chamber.

Since then, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has become a member and respectable partner of numerous international medical associations in whose meetings representatives of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber actively participate.

Besides that, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber is itself the organizer of expert discussions related to medical profession. Therefore, in 2018. the Croatian Medical Chamber gladly accepted the invitation of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber to participate in the round table "Professional, Ethical and Criminal Liability - Limitations and Challenges" at which the representative of the Croatian Medical Chamber, asst.prof. Marija Perić presented the

Croatian legislative framework, regulations and procedures related to the professional responsibility of doctors.

Along with professional development of doctors and medical profession, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber also invests in the development and improvement of its processes and human resources, gathering the experiences of "older" medical organizations. Therefore, in October and November 2022. the Croatian Medical Chamber hosted study visits of delegations from the Kosovo Doctors Chamber for the purpose of exchanging experiences. Officials and professionals of the Croatian Medical Chamber presented to their Kosovo colleagues the organizational and technology processes, projects, legal acts and procedures, as well as the benefits that the Croatian Medical Chamber provides to its members. Both visits took place in intensive interaction, which to mutual satisfaction resulted in the exchange of useful information and experiences, all for the purpose of strengthening the role of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber.

The Croatian Medical Chamber supports this kind of cooperation that will contribute to the improvement of medical chambers, and thus to the improvement of the medical profession and the reputation of doctors.

We congratulate the Kosovo Doctors Chamber on its momentous 10th anniversary!



Study visit of the professional staff of KDC to the Croatian Medical Chamber

A TEN- YEAR JOURNEY OF CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS - A STORY OF SUPPORTING THE KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER



Afërdita Ademi- Osmani

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For a whole decade, the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has played a pivotal role in supporting the development of the health sector in Kosovo, including the establishment of new institutions emerging from the reform process in the health sector. Through strategic investments and close cooperation, the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, through the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency in Kosovo - LuxDev, (KSV/014 and KSV/017 projects), has made an important contribution to the design of policies and regulations on health care management. Also, it has contributed to enhanced human and infrastructural capacities necessary for the successful operation of health institutions.

One of the key areas of focus of the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency has been the creation of the necessary capacities for the operationalization of new institutions that emerge from health care reform efforts, with special emphasis on the operationalization of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC).

The Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency has been a key actor in helping to develop legislation for the establishment of Healthcare Professionals Chambers (HPCs), contributing to the full operationalization of these new institutions in Kosovo. This commitment has included the provision of technical assistance, close cooperation with local and international legal experts, government officials, and professional organizations. The objective has been to align the existing legal framework with international standards, also reflecting KDC's needs and aspirations to develop into a professional organization at European and global level. The assistance provided has facilitated the creation of cooperative partnerships with similar institutions in the region and in European countries. This has supported the growth of the legal framework for the KDC, has improved the performance of the governance structures, and has encouraged the sustainable development of HPCs, especially the KDC.

The KDC was initially established in 2014, through the "Health Support Programme in Kosovo KSV/014", following which, in the second phase, the KSV/017 project (started in 2016) has provided technical and financial support for the adaptation and revitalization of the premises of Healthcare Professionals Chambers. The new premises will include offices, as well as dedicated spaces for conferences, seminars, and business meetings for healthcare professionals. This new structure will provide more suitable environments for HPC operations, services, and activities. The new building will be environmentally-friendly and built with long-term sustainability in mind.

In order to improve the overall organizational efficiency, productivity, decision-making and effectiveness, technical assistance is provided for the digitization of work processes, as well as the establishment of an information management system for the KDC.

In addition to investments in legislation and infrastructure, the empowerment of KDC staff in strategic planning, leadership development, financial management and effective governance, is also a key focus of the partnership between the KSV/017 project and the KDC. Through the organization of study visits, working meetings, and various scientific conferences, the project has facilitated opportunities for the participation of KDC staff, doctors and other healthcare professionals in various professional events. This has supported the KDC in developing cooperation with similar organizations in the region and in the European Union, for the exchange of practices and experiences, as well as to ensure KDC's recognition and membership in relevant professional networks, with the EU context and global initiatives.

Over the past decade, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to evolve into a sustainable and successful professional organization, which we are proud to support.



Meeting with representatives of LuxDev, project KSV-017

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KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER OVER THE YEARS



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The idea to establish the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC) came as a response to the need to implement the 100-year-old concept of self-administration of the medical profession, which has been applied since the beginning of the last century.

This concept continued to develop in democratic states, while in the communist bloc it died out as it opposed the centralized concept and the idea of control of everything by the state and the party.

Within the reform process, the Ministry of Health is committed to bring this concept to life and, through the organization of intensive workshops and discussions, possible modalities for the establishment of Chambers of Health Professionals have been discussed and analyzed. Among the experts and representatives involved in these processes, a particular recognition goes to Dr. Ramin Parsa Parsi, Dr. Salih Berisha and Mr. Domen Podnar from the German Medical Association, who provided significant inputs and deep support for the process of creating this structure as part of the modern concept of self-governance of health professionals.

As a result of continuous efforts and ongoing dialogue, Law No. 04/L-150 on Chambers of Health Professionals was adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo on May 30, 2013.

The Law on Chambers and the inauguration of the KDC

The adoption of the Law on CHPs was an important step towards building a specialized and professional institution that aims to represent, protect and develop the interests and responsibilities of Kosovo doctors. In a sensitive sector like the health sector, which has a major impact on the well-being of citizens, it is essential to have a united voice that represents and protects the profession and professionals in this field, as

best as possible.

In November 2013, the inauguration of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber took place, an important event that was accompanied by the election of the President of the KDC, Prof. Dr. Zylfije Hundozi. The inauguration ceremony was a solemn event, attended by representatives from the Medical Chambers from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Albania, as well as senior representatives of diplomatic missions in Kosovo.

The effort to operationalize the Doctors Chamber faced great challenges that were addressed by the first leadership. The law governing the Chambers of Health Professionals provided for the transfer of powers from the Ministry of Health (MoH) to the Chambers of Health Professionals during the first three years of their establishment. However, facing political-administrative obstacles was inevitable and, during the first mandate, the Doctors Chamber was unable to successfully undertake the main mission to create an independent institution that represented the medical profession in Kosovo with dignity.

In the face of challenges, during the first mandate, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber took essential steps to improve the organization of its activity. This process included the adoption of the Statute of the Chamber and the implementation of several key regulations. In addition, the KDC has managed to build a significant presence on the international stage, participating in numerous important events.

However, due to the failure to initiate the membership process for doctors and, also, due to the lack of key powers guaranteed by law for the Chambers of Health Professionals, during the first mandate the Kosovo Doctors Chamber was unable to ensure functional and financial independence and stability.



Competences transferred from the Ministry of Health to Kosovo Doctors Chamber

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Establishment of bodies and strengthening of the Chamber

After a successful election process in December 2017, in the first Assembly of the second term of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, the elections for the new president of the KDC took place. The successful candidate was Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu, and with the arrival of new structures in the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, a new period for the development of the KDC began.

During the first mandate of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, all performed activities were made possible with the financial support of LuxDev's KSV/017 Project. This project provided significant and continuous financial support to enable the conduct of the organization's activities. This support was continued during the second mandate and is still continuing, but this time to carry out some important strategic activities, which will be mentioned in more detail below.

In 2018, the Doctors Chamber was given its original form, an important period where the basic bodies of the Chamber were established and the process of membership of doctors was started. Also, during this period, the powers of Professional Ethical Oversight, Continuing Professional Education, as well as Doctor Licensing and Re-Licensing were transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Doctors Chamber. In this regard, the KDC has begun to examine the first cases of Ethical-Professional Oversight, has financially supported the organization of continuing professional education activities, has begun the process of licensing and re-licensing of KDC member doctors. In the same year, the KDC also started the process of equipping members with unique facsimiles for all licensed members, a process that was also taken as an example by sister organizations in several countries.

During this year, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber has managed to join the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) as an observer. Likewise, the KDC chair, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu has managed to secure a space within the HCUK complex for the Chamber's offices, which were renovated through financial support from LuxDev.

At the same time, the professional service of the KDC has been developed, establishing the necessary structure to support the implementation of all activities provided by law.

In 2018, taking into account the above-mentioned activities, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber managed to build independence and financial stability, thus allowing it to successfully present a draft budget for 2019 at the next session of the Assembly, including all activities foreseen for the following year.

In 2019, after the stabilizing and organizational year, the KDC marked the beginning of concrete steps in the field of professional activities, such as the organization of annual Congresses attended by approximately 2,000 doctors from various fields. With this comprehensive philosophy and multi-disciplinary approach, the annual Congresses continued with core themes planned on an annual basis. In these congresses, doctors had the opportunity to attend scientific presentations by local and foreign lecturers. In addition to the lectures, during the congress, workshops were also held by experts in the relevant fields on various topics.

In the framework of continuous professional education, the KDC financed and co-organized over 60 congresses, conferences, workshops, roundtables and various professional gatherings.

Also, during 2019, at the initiative of the KDC chair, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu, the first talks on the construction of a common facility for all Chambers of Health Professionals (CHPs), which would be financed by LuxDev's "Support for the Health Sector" Project (KSV/017), were initiated. After many challenges, this project's implementation only began in early 2023, thanks to the

commitment of the Mayor of Prishtina, Mr. Përparim Rama, and support from the Municipal Assembly of Prishtina, which during the session held in December 2022 voted on the use of the plot for the construction of a common facility for all Chambers of Health Professionals. This project will be realized with financial support from the Government of the Duchy of Luxembourg through the LuxDev Development Agency.

"Revista Mjeku" (Doctor Magazine)

2020 brought special challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Kosovo declared a state of emergency for public health and took measures to prevent the spread of the virus. As a consequence of this, the KDC was forced to suspend some initiatives/projects and continued work in its offices respecting the anti-COVID-19 measures.

On March 30, 2021, on International Doctors' Day, the KDC published the "Revista Mjeku" (Doctor Magazine). This magazine is published for the first time in Kosovo, and deals with various current events from Kosovar medicine and beyond. "Revista Mjeku" (Doctor Magazine) comes as a result of the vision and commitment of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber for an informative magazine dedicated to Kosovar doctors and other potential readers interested in Kosovo health news. The Editorial Board is made up of members who are united by their great professional and academic background, but also by the sense of obligation to always take a "step forward" in Kosovar healthcare.

After a successful partnership, in December 2021, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and the LuxDev Project signed an agreement on the delegation of funds and the implementation of activities related to building the capacities of the medical staff of the

General Hospitals in Gjilan and Prizren. This program is designed in accordance with the human resources management plan of the two hospitals for the 2022-2026 period. Through the training provided, the doctors of these two hospitals will have the opportunity to advance their professional skills and knowledge. This initiative will help increase the quality of healthcare and progress



Sining the agreement for the plot of Professional Medical Chambers

of the medical sector as a whole.

2021 was marked by the organization of the Elections for the third mandate of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC). As the results of these elections, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu was re-elected for a second term at the head of the KDC, continuing the teamwork as in the previous 4 years.

The Obelisk and Professionals Memorial Day

On February 16, at the entrance of the HCUK, the Obelisk memorial monument dedicated to all health professionals was inaugurated. This project was realized at the initiative of the KDC chair, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu, and in cooperation with all Chambers of Health Professionals of Kosovo. Also, by the Chambers of Health Professionals designated February 16 as "Memorial Day of Health Professionals of the Republic of Kosovo".

The launch of the implementation of the Information System and the interactive da-

tabase, which will integrate all the processes of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC), is an important step that has received the support of the LuxDev Project. This system is expected to enter in operation in September 2023 and aims to bring about a transformation in the way the KDC manages and monitors data, making it more accessible and up-to-date. This innovative intervention will enable a better coordination of activities, increase transparency, and improve work efficiency. This is one of the key initiatives that will help the KDC become more productive and provide a better service to its members and the medical community at large.

The Chamber Today

Currently, the Doctors Chamber has 5,784 active members, who regularly interact with the Doctors Chamber regarding various services.

While the construction of the new facility and the implementation of the new digital

system are pending, the KDC continues to make progress and respond to new challenges. In this special period, the KDC is proud of its achievements and on September 18 will celebrate its 10th anniversary together with international friends and local stakeholders.



The obelisk in honor of Health Professionals who lost their lives during the exercise of their duties at different stages

REVISTA MJEKU



Fisnik Kurshumliu

Editor in chief of Revista Mjeku

Revista Mjeku is a magazine of Kosovo Doctor's Chamber, established in January 2021. The magazine is published four times per year, and it tackles various health related topics. The numbers of the magazine are organized by key topics which are determined by the editorial board.

In today's medical world of many developments, being updated to the latest trends and information is of crucial importance to the medical professionals.

Revista Mjeku serves as a valuable source of updated information for medical professionals in order for them to stay at the forefront of their field.

In the following, I will mention some of the elements of Revista Mjeku which I consider important:

1. A Platform for Knowledge Exchange: The magazine acts as a platform for knowledge exchange, allowing doctors to share their expertise, experience, and research findings with their peers. It fosters collaboration and encourages the dissemination of valuable information, ultimately enhancing patient care.

2. Keeping Up with Medical Advancements: The field of medicine is constantly evolving, with new treatments, technologies, and research emerging regularly. The magazine serves as a reliable source of information, keeping physicians updated on the latest medical advancements, clinical trials, and evidence-based practices.

3. Continuing Medical Education (CME): The magazine offers possibilities for Continuing Medical Education. By contributing to the magazine with written articles, the authors gain CME credit points. Soon it is foreseen that the reviewers will also gain CME credit points as compensation for their contribution. Alternative options by online quizzes are also foreseen as additional means for CME.

4. Insights into Best Practices: The magazine often features articles written by experts in various medical fields. These articles provide valuable insights into best practices, clinical guidelines, and treatment protocols. By following these recommendations, doctors are in position to improve patient outcomes and optimize their practice.

5. Addressing Ethical and Judicial Issues: The magazine offers articles on medical ethics and legislation. This helps medical professionals in the right decision making when it comes to certain situations. In this way, they maintain their personal and professional integrity and are in a position to uphold the highest ethical standards.

6. Networking: The magazine highlights conferences, workshops, and other professional events. By attending these events, doctors besides earning CME credits, can network with colleagues, learn from experts, and enhance their professional development. The magazine serves as a valuable resource for staying informed about upcoming events and opportunities.

CONCLUSION: Revista Mjeku plays a vital role in the professional lives of healthcare practitioners. It serves as a comprehensive source of information, facilitating knowledge exchange, keeping doctors updated on advancements, offering CME opportunities, providing insights into best practices, addressing ethical and judicial aspects, and fostering networking and professional development. By leveraging the resources offered by this magazine, physicians can enhance their skills, improve patient care, and stay at the forefront of their field.



Issues of Revista Mjeku

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KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER - DECORATIONS

Kosovo Doctors
Chamber

The Kosovo Doctors Chamber awards 4 types of medals:

1. "DOCTOR ALI SOKOLI" HONORARY MEDAL
2. "MUSA HAXHIU" SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
3. KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER ACKNOWLEDGMENT MEDAL
4. KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER MEMORIAL MEDAL

1. DOCTOR "ALI SOKOLI" HONORARY MEDAL

The Honorary Medal, as the Chamber's highest recognition, is awarded to Chamber members for extraordinary achievements while practicing the medical profession in situations of social crisis or under other extraordinary or life-threatening circumstances, as well as for exceptional professional achievements that have significantly improved the existing level of healthcare provision, healthcare activity, and the healthcare system as a whole.

2. "MUSA HAXHIU" SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

The Kosovo Doctors Chamber Scientific Achievements Medal is awarded to Chamber members with proven achievements in the field of medicine, with contributions at the European and global level.

3. KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER ACKNOWLEDGMENT MEDAL

The Kosovo Doctors Chamber Acknowledgment Medal is awarded to Chamber members and other individuals, upon retirement, institutions, organizations, associations, and legal entities, for making a valuable contribution to the work and organization of the Chamber and for contributing to the promotion of the Chamber's values, and for assistance in the realization of tasks, programs, projects and essential goals of the Chamber in the Republic of Kosovo and abroad.

4. KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER MEMORIAL MEDAL

The Kosovo Doctors Chamber Memorial Medal is awarded posthumously to a Chamber member, in sign of recognition and gratitude for the many years of responsible membership and contribution to the work of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, as well as in providing healthcare services to Kosovo's population.

DOCTOR "ALI SOKOLI" HONORARY MEDAL
Abdylatif Fusha*
Adem Ademi*
Adnan Shabani
Agim Serhati*
Agron Pustina
Ali Sokoli*
Ali Zatriqi*
Asllan Elezi*
Bajram Koca
Bajram Rexhepi*
Bedri Bakalli*
Besim Sllamniku
Bexhet Canhasi
Binak Kastrati
Bylbyl Shehu*
Daut Mustafa*
Durmish Celina*
Emine Gashi
Emine Halimi*
Enver Baraku
Enver Haxhiu
Eshref Biçaku*
Fahredin Hoti*
Fahri Rashiti
Faik Hima
Fatmir Krasniqi*
Fehmi Henci*
Gani Demolli*
Gazmend Shaqiri*
Gjok Prenaj
Hafir Shala*
Hajredin Ukelli*
Hamdi Çela*
Hasan Jakupi
Hashim Maloku*
Hazir Malaj
Hysen Ukmata*
Hyzri Tafarshiku*
Igballe Oshlani*
Igballe Piperku
Ilhami Goranci*
Imer Mustafa*
Irfan Spahiu
Isa Kaligani*

Ismajl Aliu
Ismet Abdullahu Ferizaj*
Isuf Dedushaj
Izedin Osmani*
Izet Hima*
Jusuf Rexhepi*
Jusuf Telaku
Kajmak Gazideda*
Lec – Gradica*
Mahir Morina
Mazllum Belegu
Mehmet Begraca*
Meshqyre Çapuni Brestovci*
Mihrije Rukiqi*
Muhamet Guguli*
Muharem Kutllovci*
Muharrem Gashi *
Muhedin Salihamixhiq*
Mustafë Ademaj*
Naser Ahmeti*
Nazim Ymeri*
Nexhdet Kryeziu*
Nuredin Zejnullahu*
Nysret Ramadani
Nysret Ramadani
Njazi Badivuku*
Njazi Suhodolli
Orhan Kubati
Pavli Floko
Palush Prenaj*
Qamil Haxhiu*
Refik Ramku
Remzi Izairi*
Rexhep Hajdaraj*
Rifat Lila
Riza Binishi*
Sadri Bajraktari
Samedin Haxhijaha*
Sami Haxhibeqiri*
Sami Spahiu*
Samile Juniku
Sehadete Doko-Mekuli*
Sejdullah Hoxha
Selim Krasniqi*
Simë Dobreci
Skender Gubetini

Skender M. Boshnjaku*
Sylejman Arapi*
Shaban Geci*
Shaban Hasi
Shefki Goxhufi*
Shefqet Berisha
Shefqet Meha *
Shemsedin Popaj
Shpetim Robaj*
Talat Pallaska
Vesel Elezi*
Vezi Bajrami*
Xheladin Deda*
Xhemajl Bajraktari*
Xhemil Bytyqi
Xhevat Gashi*
Ymer Aliu*
Ymer Koqinaj*
Zef Gjoni*
Zeke Zeka
Zenel Kelmendi
Zylfi Azizi
Afrim Tasholli*
Ali Tolaj*
Burim Krasniqi*
Fadil Zuka*
Feti Hetemi*
Gëzim Berisha*
Kujtim Zarari*
Lulzim Kolgjeraj*
Minafır Beshiri*
Muhamet Avdyli*
Negjip Berisha*
Nijazi Ahmeti*
Safet Idrizi*
Sebajdin Smani*
Sedat Hoti*
Sylejman Rexhepi*
Zenel Kabashi*
Sulejman Dulla*
Muharrem Asllani*
Sevdije Korça*
Salih Ahmeti
Drita Mekuli
Nijazi Gashi
Spiro Lito
Vjosa Mulliqi -Kotorri

KOSOVO	DOCTORS	CHAMBER
MEMORIAL MEDAL		
Abaz Krasniqi*		
Adem Limani*		
Bedri Sadriu*		
Bedri Zahiti*		
Elmir Tarani*		
Ferat Emini*		
Gjon Gjiododa*		
Ilirjane Raça- Bunjaku*		
Isak Maxhuni*		
Iskender Çitaku*		
Nevzat Bajrami*		
Nusret Zijabeg*		
Orhan Gafuri*		
Sami Gjoka*		
Sanije Shala- Demiri*		
Shaban Jashari*		
Lumnije Shala*		
Eliza Saliu- Ferati*		
Ismet Miftari*		
Bedri Bimbashi*		
Mevlyde Iljazji*		
Nisret Hajrullahu*		
Ilir Ilazi*		
Hajrullah Saraçi*		
Sejdullah Hoxha*		
Hakif Sadiku*		
Muharrem Krasniqi*		
Shevqet Mehmet*		
Sebahat Zeqiri*		
Mentor Salih*		
Ali Iljazji*		
Naser Lleshi*		
Azijada Jamini*		
Ylber Murati*		
Nesim Miftari*		
Visar Huruglica*		

*Post - mortem

"MUSA HAXHIU" SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
Prof. Dr. Musa Haxhiu*
Prof. Dr. Osman Imami*
Prof. Dr. Flamur Blakaj
Prof. Dr. Mentrol Petrela



Decoration of Honor, for extraordinary achievements during the exercise of the doctor's profession in situations of social crisis or in other extraordinary or life-threatening circumstances, as well as for extraordinary professional achievements that have significantly improved the existing level of provision of health care, the activity in health care and the health care system as a whole. Presented to Prof. Dr. Salih Ahmeti from the president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu.



Decoration of Honor, for extraordinary achievements during the exercise of the doctor's profession in situations of social crisis or in other extraordinary or life-threatening circumstances, as well as for extraordinary professional achievements that have significantly improved the existing level of provision of health care, the activity in health care and the health care system as a whole. Presented to Prof. Dr. Isuf Dedushaj from the president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu.



Acknowledgment for the continuous support and raising of capacities of the Chamber of Medicine of Kosovo at the international level. Presented to the president of the Croatian Doctors Chamber, Dr. Ivan Raguz from the president of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, Dr. Pleurat Sejdiu.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED BY THE KDC



Kosovo Doctors Chamber

The Doctors Chamber, based on the Regulation for Continuing Professional Education, through hosted Congresses aims to offer its members in specific fields the opportunity to gain experience from external experts, in order to increase medical capacities for providing services to the citizens of Kosovo.

Participation in Congresses organized by the KDC and co-organizations with other institutions is free of charge for all members of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber.

First Congress and Medical Fair:

On October 17, 2019, the solemn opening of the First Congress and Medical Fair took place, where invited guests included former ministers of health, international lecturers, and the General Secretary of CPME, Mrs. Annabel Seeböhm, who addressed the audience with a speech of the occasion.

Among the main activities was the promotion of the book of Prof. Dr. Isuf Dedushaj, "Encyclopedia of Albanian doctors of medical sciences all over the globe (1445 - 2018) and doctors who left an indelible mark in the history of Albanian medicine". Medals were also awarded to the most distinguished professionals in the field of medicine, who received the "Ali Sokoli" and "Musa Haxhiu" medals for their special contribution to the establishment and development of health services and institutions in Kosovo.

In order to promote science and support the development of the country's human scientific capacities, the five best scientific papers published in 2018 were awarded with prizes.

In addition to the lectures, during the congress, four workshops by experts in the relevant fields were also held, with the following topics: Advanced Airway Management/Airway Management in Trauma; Advanced diagnostics in pacemaker and ICD; Virtual counseling for contraceptives - uveitis, where participants were introduced to the newest medical methods and technologies.

The First Medical Congress and Fair was attended by over 2,800 specialist doctors from various fields, and in this event, doctors and guests were able to follow the lectures on the website of the Chamber, on the YouTube channel of the Telemedicine Center, as well as at all regional hospitals around Kosovo. Along with the educational program, the Medical Fair also took place with great success, where various companies and organizations were given the opportunity to exhibit their products, services and activities to those interested in the Congress.

The 2020 Annual Congress for 2020 was postponed to a year later, due to the pandemic situation and related circumstances.

Second Medicine Congress - Oncology:

The Second Medicine Congress - Oncology

was held on October 14, 2021, with invited guests, representatives from the Ministry of Health, representatives from the parliamentary committee for health, international lecturers, etc., present at the solemn opening.

Among the main activities was the promotion of the two issues published so far of "Revista Mjeku" (Doctor Magazine). During this evening, medals and acknowledgments were given in honor of the doctors who passed away during 2021, the most distinguished professionals in the field of medicine received the "Ali Sokoli" and "Musa Haxhiu" medals for their special contribution to the establishment and development of health services and institutions in Kosovo.

After the situation with the pandemic improved in September, the organizational council filed a request with the Kosovo Emergency Operations Center for permission to hold the congress for a certain number of participants (up to 300 people), and as a result, over 2,500 participants took part in person or online, respecting the anti-Covid measures.

Over 58 lectures and papers were presented at the Second Medical Congress, divided into 8 sessions: Pulmonology, Gastrointestinal tract, Urogenital tract, Head and neck, Gynecology, Breast, Pediatric oncology, Hemato-oncology.

Third Medicine Congress - Covid-19 Pandemic, Challenges and Experiences

On June 18-19, 2022, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber organized the third Medicine Congress on the topic of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Challenges and Experiences, with the solemn opening attended by various representatives of health institutions, international doctors, and local doctors of the respective fields. In the solemn opening ceremony of the third Medicine Congress, the honorary "Doctor Ali Sokoli" Honorary Medal was awarded to Prof. Dr. Salih Ahmeti, as well as awards to the 10 best scientific papers in 2021. The proceedings of the Congress lasted for two days and were conducted according to the sessions on the topics of Public Health and Management of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Mental Health and Covid-19.

Within this Congress, three workshops were held with the following topics: Community responses to air pollution, overview of behavioral and cultural knowledge, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and airway management in Covid-19.

Part of this congress was also the medical fair where different companies presented their products and services in the medical pavilion.

Fourth Medicine Congress - Diabetes Mellitus, Interdisciplinary Approach

The fourth Medicine Congress dealt with the topic of Diabetes Mellitus, Interdisciplinary Approach,

and was held on November 17-18, 2022.

In this ceremony were awarded medals and recognitions for the continuous support of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber at the international level, recognitions for the commitment and promotion of values, recognitions for contributions to the promotion of the values of the Chamber, for assistance in the realization of tasks, programs, projects and essential goals of the Chamber in the Republic of Kosovo, the "Doctor ALI SOKOLI" memorial medal to KDC members who passed away during 2022, recognitions for service to patients and the work done in the professional development of new professionals in the field of Diabetology, Endocrinology and Metabolism, recognitions for the contribution to Endocrinology and Diabetology in raising professionals, recognitions to doctors retired during 2022, as well as recognitions to sponsors.

Diabetes topics were addressed by representatives of relevant institutions, as well as foreign lecturers from different countries, who expressed their willingness to share their experiences with our doctors and to present the latest news in this field. The sessions of this Congress were: Diabetes in adults, diabetes in children and adolescents, acute complications of diabetes, chronic microvascular complications of diabetes, chronic macrovascular complications of

diabetes.

This congress had about 2,000 participants, doctors from different fields of medicine, and 4 workshops on the topics: insulin pump, diabetic ketoacidosis, diabetic foot, and for the first time a workshop was held with primary and secondary schools on the topic of diabetes in children and adolescents, treatment and stigmatization, reality or fiction?. A medical fair was also held with various companies in the field of medicine.

Co-organizations:

Over the years, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, together with various health institutions, has co-organized events for its members.

On October 19, 2018, under the patronage of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and in co-organization with the Bioethics units of the Republic of Kosovo and Albania, within the framework of UNESCO, the Third International Bioethics Conference was organized with the theme: "Solidarity and Cooperation".

A co-organization between the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and the Kosovo Airway Management Association, was held on March 2, 2019. The workshop dealt with the topic "International airway management days". This workshop was divided into two sessions, the first with lectures from

8 international and 13 local experts, while in the second session health professionals were divided into 8 groups to cover the practical side of the Advanced Trauma Airway Management workshop.

While in the same year, on April 19, the first Pan-Albanian Symposium of Pediatric Surgery was held, under the patronage of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and in co-organization with the Clinic of Pediatric Surgery.

During 2021, the 5th Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology was held in Kosovo, a collaboration between the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and the Kosovo Gynecologists and Obstetricians Association. Topics related to women's, mother's and child's health were presented at this congress. A certain number of participants attended the Congress in person, while the rest online. During the days of the congress, over 1,500 doctors attended in person or online.

Another event held in September 2021 is the First Clinical Congress, a co-organization between the Kosovo Doctors Chamber and the Kosova College of Surgeons. In this congress, various topics from all surgical disciplines were presented by over 40 foreign lecturers and 50 local lecturers. More than 600 surgeons from all surgical specialties attended the Congress in person and online.



The first Medical Congress and Panair



Fourth Medical Congress -Mellitus Diabetes, interdisciplinary approach

POLL KDC WITH HIGH RELIABILITY AMONG DOCTORS

Edea Blyta and Gramoz Jakupi

The survey conducted by “Revista Mjeku” (Doctors Journal) with 488 members of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, shows that over 80% of them consider KDC activities as useful for their professional development, while over 78% of the respondents expressed satisfaction with services received at the KDC. About 70% of doctors think that specializations should be organized and administered by the KDC, while more than 95% of doctors know about the “Revista Mjeku” (Doctors Journal) and more than 80% are regular readers.

KDC activities and their usefulness for doctors

The scientific activities organized by the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC) have been beneficial to Kosovo doctors in their professional development, since more than ¾ of them have had the opportunity to be part of these professional activities.

This is what the results of an open survey conducted in August 2023 by “Revista Mjeku”, with 488 members of the Kosovo Doctors Chamber, show.

Out of 488 respondents, 83.6% of them affirmed that the scientific activities orga-

nized by the KDC for professional training were useful, while 75.4% of the respondents affirmed that they participated in the activities organized by the KDC.

The KDC and its bodies have managed to successfully serve their members, helping them in their professional development, representation, promotion, and protection of their rights.

The survey highlighted the fact that KDC members express positive evaluations of the administrative services they receive in the bodies of the Chamber, with 78.3% of the respondents expressing themselves very satisfied and satisfied, while 95.3% of the respondents expressed positive evaluations of the staff in the KDC offices (30.1 rated the staff as excellent; 31.6% very good, and 33.6% good).

As for KDC’s legal and professional support, 63.9% of the respondents declared that they had received such support.

The conducted survey also shows that 67.4% of respondents are informed about scientific activities organized by the KDC

Re-licensing and specialist training

As for the manner of licensing and relicensing of doctors, 68% of respondents are satisfied with the way this process is organized now, while in terms of the future, 38.9% of respondents prefer that relicensing be done every 10 years; 18.9% every 7 years, while 40.6% prefer relicensing every 5 years as it is now.

Whereas, regarding the organization of specialist education, 69.7% of the surveyed doctors affirm that the KDC should organize and administer the process of specialist education.

“Revista Mjeku” (Doctors Journal)

“Revista Mjeku”, whose first issue came out in March 2021, according to the survey, is quite popular among the medical community due to the fact that 95.5% of the respondents have heard of the magazine, while 80.5% of the surveyed doctors stated that they read it.

The survey was conducted only with KDC members, electronically, and consisted of thirteen questions.

Graphical representation of the survey

Your professional status?

488 responses

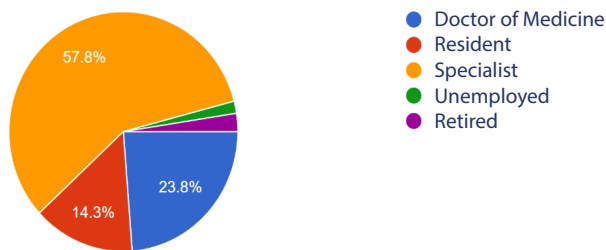


Chart 1. Professional status of respondents

Your age?

488 responses

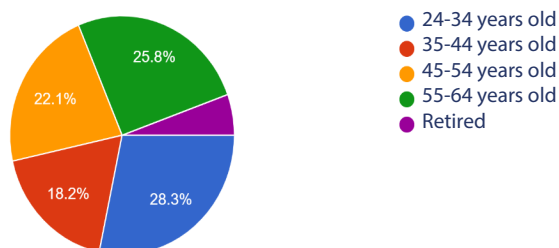


Chart 2: Age of respondents

How useful are the scientific activities organized by the KDC for your professional training?
488 responses

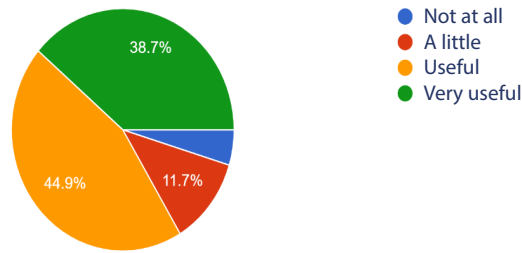
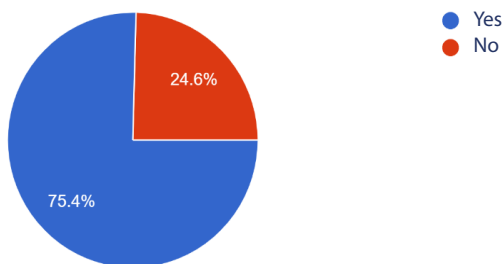


Chart 3: Importance of scientific activities organized by the KDC for doctors

How useful are the scientific activities organized by the KDC for your professional training?
488 responses



How satisfied are you with the administrative services you receive at the KDC?
488 responses

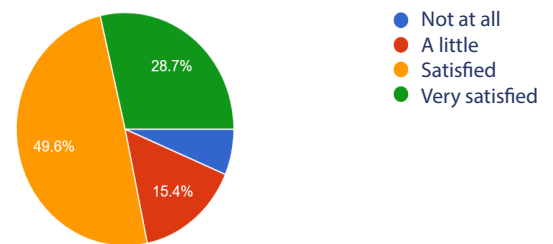
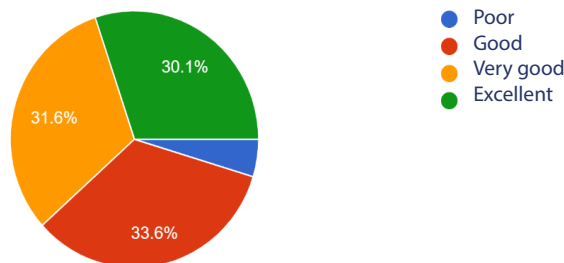


Chart 4: Importance of scientific activities organized by the KDC for doctors

Chart 5: Satisfaction with administrative services at the KDC

How would you rate the staff in KDC offices?
488 responses



Do you receive legal and professional support from the KDC?
488 responses

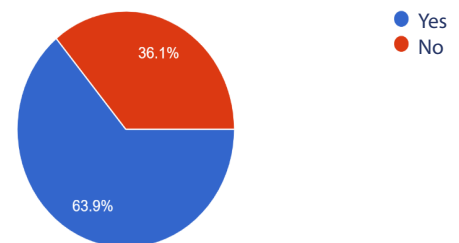
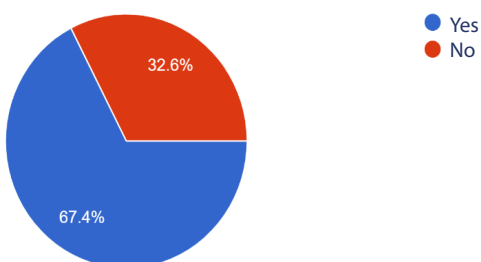


Chart 6: Satisfaction with the staff in the KDC offices

Chart 7: KDC's legal and professional support for doctors

Are you sufficiently informed about KDC's scientific activities?
488 responses



Do you agree with the manner doctor licensing and relicensing is organized?
488 responses

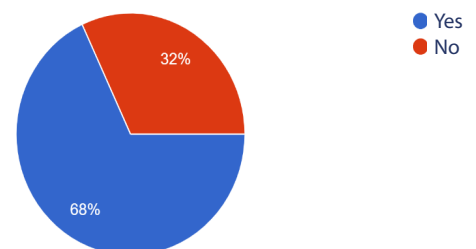


Chart 8: Doctor outreach about KDC's scientific activities

Chart 9: Compliance with how licensing and relicensing is organized

Relicensing, in your opinion, should be done every:

488 responses

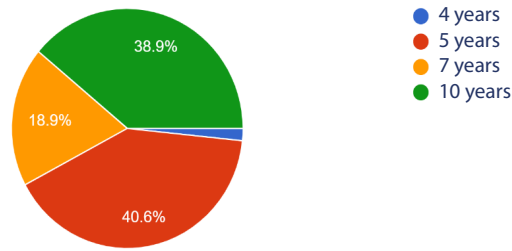


Chart 10: Doctors' preferences about the timing of future relicensing

Do you think that KDC should organize and administer specialist education?

488 responses

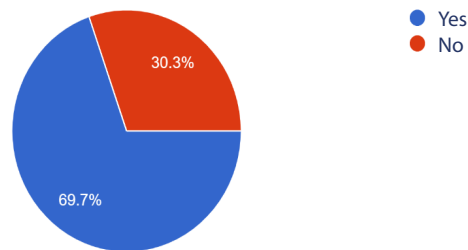


Chart 11: Doctor attitudes about the organization and administration of specialist education

Have you heard of the "Revista Mjeku" (Doctors Journal)?

488 responses

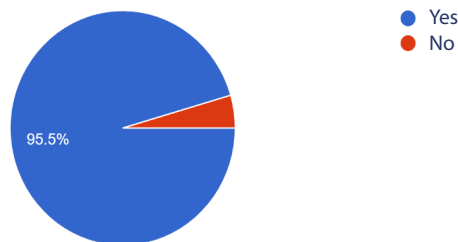


Chart 12: Doctors' knowledge about "Revista Mjeku" (Doctor Journal)

Do you read the "Revista Mjeku" (Doctors Journal)?

488 responses

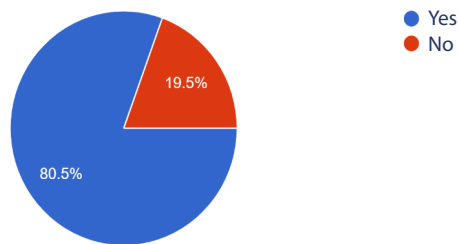


Chart 13: Reading of the "Revista Mjeku" (Doctors Journal) by doctors

FOSTERING HEALTHY AND TRANSPARENT COLLABORATION BETWEEN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND THE KOSOVO DOCTORS CHAMBER



Roche

The health care system is a complex ecosystem where various stakeholders work together to ensure the wellbeing of patients. Among these stakeholders, pharmaceutical companies and the Chambers of Health Professionals (CHP) in general and especially the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC), play the main role in advancing medical science, providing healthcare solutions and improving patient outcomes. However, the cooperation between these subjects has often been viewed with suspicion for a possible conflict of interest and lack of transparency, contrary to the obvious necessity of such cooperation. This is precisely where the need arises for the creation of a legal and ethical basis for the promotion and support of a healthy and transparent cooperation between pharmaceutical companies and CHPs, emphasizing the importance of such cooperation in the continuous effort to improve the quality of healthcare.

The role of pharmaceutical companies and the Doctors Chamber

Pharmaceutical companies are at the forefront of medical innovation by continually investing in scientific research and developing new medicines and therapies that can alleviate suffering and save lives. Their role in healthcare is undeniable, as they bring vital medicines and vaccines to market, treating diseases that affect millions but also rare diseases that affect far fewer individuals with far fewer treatment options.

On the other hand, the Kosovo Doctors Chamber (KDC) is an independent professional organization in which doctors practicing medicine in the Republic of Kosovo are members and licensed. The KDC serves as a professional body brought together by physicians, healthcare providers and experts in various medical disciplines. They establish and uphold ethical standards within the medical community, provide continuing education, and provide guidance on best practices. Medical chambers are essential to maintaining the integrity of the health care profession and ensuring that patients receive the highest quality care.

Figuratively, the role of these two actors of the health ecosystem resembles two rivers flowing in the same direction – in the best possible interest of patient health, mixing along the way several times, until they flow together into the sea of patient health. These meeting points in reality naturally create cooperation needs.

Need for cooperation

More than anywhere else, the naturalness but also the necessity of cooperation between pharmaceutical companies and CHPs is reflected in the need for scientific research and development of medicines, therapeutic products

and diagnostic equipment. Pharmaceutical companies rely on the expertise of healthcare professionals to conduct clinical trials and gather valuable insights into the safety and efficacy of their products. The KDC can facilitate this collaboration by ensuring that research is conducted ethically and transparently. So far, in the absence of a legal basis that would regulate clinical scientific research, there has been no such cooperation between the KDC and any Pharmaceutical Company present in Kosovo. However, this does not mean that tomorrow the Kosovar health ecosystem will not be a source of scientific data of global value.

More than anywhere else, the need for cooperation between Pharmaceutical Companies and the KDC is felt in the field of continuing professional education and training of doctors. The KDC provides a functional platform for pharmaceutical companies to educate healthcare professionals about new treatments and therapies. This education directly contributes to improved patient care by updating physicians with firsthand experience in the latest medical advances. This does not happen only in specific thematic meetings, organized directly and in direct cooperation. Such education and training is developed also through the organization of Congresses, Symposia, Seminars, Conferences, and other scientific events, where Pharmaceutical Companies present the latest discoveries and innovations in the field of treatment or diagnostics, together with their applicability in the daily work of doctors.

All this cooperation is often viewed with suspicion, especially in healthcare systems in transition, where conflict of interest arise more easily. Therefore, the close and transparent cooperation between the KDC and pharmaceutical companies must guarantee the ethical supervision of the cooperation processes. Cooperation with the KDC can and should provide pharmaceutical companies with ethical guidance and oversight, helping them to fully avoid potential conflicts of interest by ensuring that their marketing and promotional activities comply with medical ethics.

Ethical supervision is primarily about patient protection. Both pharmaceutical companies and the KDC share a common goal of improving patient outcomes. Collaboration in initiatives such as disease awareness campaigns and patient education, can enhance patient care and support. These activities, organized together by these two shareholders, have a much greater impact and effect than the same activities organized independently.

Throughout this wide range of cooperation, transparency and accountability of each party

is essential. A transparent collaborative framework can help build trust between stakeholders, including patients and the public. This framework ensures that interactions between pharmaceutical companies and the KDC are open, accountable and free of undue influence or conflicts of interest.

Creating a healthy and transparent collaboration between Roche-Kosova and KDC

In order to encourage and support a healthy and transparent cooperation between pharmaceutical companies, in this case the Hoffmann-La Roche LTD Company Representative Office in Kosovo and the KDC, the needs described above have been strictly respected, taking into account the clear instructions, previously agreed upon. Based on the internal regulations of both parties, and in order to ensure long and fruitful cooperation, we have developed clear guidelines and codes of conduct that describe the expectations and responsibilities of both parties in cooperation. These guidelines emphasize transparency, ethical behavior, and the best interests of patients.

In order for collaborative activities to be reviewed and monitored in an independent and objective manner, we have created independent supervisory committees, as in the case of the implementation of the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation. Through this independent oversight, we will ensure that collaborative activities meet ethical standards and do not compromise patient care.

At KDC Congresses and Conferences we have endeavored to continuously provide educational programs and training opportunities for healthcare professionals to improve their understanding of the pharmaceutical industry, its products, benefits, and potential risks associated with new treatments. Thanks to healthy and transparent cooperation, this education and training has produced a direct and tangible effect in advancing the quality of care for patients in Kosovo.

Our cooperation is based on constant exchange of information. The promotion of open and transparent communication between the Hoffmann-La Roche LTD Company and KDC has not only facilitated the exchange of scientific and medical knowledge but has also enabled the assessment and detection of doctors' needs for continuous professional development.

The focus of all these efforts and such cooperation has been and remains on the patient and their needs. Therefore, patient involvement naturally remains a natural necessity of any collaboration. Common difficulties such as identifying the typical representative patient or relevant patient groups and organizations, are no different from those in other countries. However, critical to this effort is the shared awareness that the inclusion of patient advocacy groups and patient representatives in collaborative efforts, is necessary to ensure that patient perspectives and needs are considered throughout the process.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that collaboration between pharmaceutical companies and the KDC is essential to advancing healthcare, fostering medical innovation and improving patient outcomes. However, our experience as the Hoffmann-La Roche LTD Company in collaborations with the KDC, proves that to ensure the integrity and transparency of such collaborations, clear guidelines, ethical oversight and commitment to the best interests of patients are essential. By working together in a responsible and transparent way, as two of the most important actors, we can contribute significantly to the advancement of the quality of healthcare in Kosovo, but also the protection of the interest of patients and the integrity of health professionals.



Calendar of activities for 2023

Institution/The organizing association of the activity	Subject	The day of the activity
Cardiology Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
ORL Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Dermatology Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Pulmology Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Pediatric Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December-2023
Hematology Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Infectious disease Clinic - UCCK	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Pristina	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Fushë Kosovë	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Drenas	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Junik	Annual professional lecture	January- December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Malishevë	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Vushtrri	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Gjakovë	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care- Podujevë	Professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Gjilan	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care - Pejë	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
The principal center of Medical Care- Viti	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Kosovos Neurology association	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Kosova College of Surgeons	Professional lecture	September-January 2023-2024
Diagnose polyclinic - Gjilan	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Action for Mothers and Children/Aksioni për Nëna dhe Fëmijë	Annual professional lecture	January-December 2023
Kosovo Doctors Chamber	Multidisciplinary Congress	27-28 October 2023
	World Cancer Day	04 February
	World Hearing Day	03 March
	The memorial day of Health Professionals	16 February
	World Health Day	07 April
	World blood Donation Day	14 June
	World Stroke Day	29 October
	World Mental Health Day	10 October
	Breast Cancer Awareness month	October
	World Diabetes Day	14 November



September, 2023

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