

ABSTRACT (THESIS SUMMARY)

The habilitation thesis "From Forensic Pathology to Bioethics - Diversity, Complexity and Interdisciplinarity" presents my professional, academic and scientific achievements so far, the results of the research carried out during the period 2004-2017 (after obtaining the PhD degree) in my two major areas of interest (Forensic Pathology and Bioethics/Medical Deontology), as well as the future development directions that I foresee.

The thesis is divided into **three main parts**.

The first, concerning **the evolution of my academic, scientific and professional career**, is made up of 6 chapters.

The first chapter is dedicated to summarizing **my initial training** as Bachelor of Medicine and Law graduate.

The second chapter presents **my professional development in the field of Forensic Pathology**, pointing out that I am currently a senior forensic pathologist, head (chief medical examiner) of the Forensic Department of Sibiu County and a member of the highest national structures in the field of Forensic Pathology.

The third chapter shows **how I developed in the field of Bioethics and Medical Deontology**, by attending training courses in the field, by initiating new teaching subjects, and by practicing as a Chairman of the Disciplinary Board in Sibiu County Medical College.

A fourth chapter presents **my academic evolution** to the level of university professor (always faithful to "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu - LBUS) and also the constant efforts of self-improvement in the field.

The fifth chapter informs about **my involvement in academic management** at both faculty and university level (including as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine - LBUS, 2012-2016).

The sixth chapter is the most voluminous, containing details about **my scientific and research work in the post-doctoral period**. It is structured in **three parts**: one presenting **the main original scientific results** after obtaining the PhD degree (subchapter 6.1), another one laying emphasis on **the relevance and originality of personal contributions in the fields of Forensic Pathology and Bioethics** (subchapter 6.2) and a last one showing evidence of **the individual ability to coordinate research teams, to organize and manage didactic activities, to explain and facilitate learning and research** (subchapter 6.3).

Among them, **subchapter 6.2** is the most comprehensive, due to the fact that within it I presented the diversity and complexity of personal research in the two main areas of interest (Forensic Pathology and Bioethics), and also the interdisciplinary approach needed to study their areas of overlap.

The results of forensic research were divided on the main areas of interest:

- contributions to **suicide research** (as a natural capitalization of the experience accumulated during the doctoral period: the intrapsychic coordinates of suicide; the study of other factors involved in suicide etiopathogenesis - unemployment, ethnicity, seasonality; the problem of

underreporting suicide; the advantages, but also the limits of using the medical death certificate in suicide research etc.);

- contributions to the study of **juvenile delinquency** (an interdisciplinary approach of this anomie behavior, involving forensics, psychiatry, sociology and legal aspects);
- original contributions to the field of **forensic toxicology** (including the pioneering activity of identifying atypical psychotropic substances known as "ethnobotanics", as a national premiere);
- **other forensic contributions** (especially in the study of avoidable deaths with forensic implications).

The immediate post-doctoral period coincided with the development of the new discipline of Bioethics at national level. In this context, I believe that all my contributions in this field can be considered relevant and original. I presented the **contributions in the field of Bioethics/Medical Deontology** also in a structured manner, in correlation with the targeted area of research:

- debut research (devoted to the ethical coordinates of **medical assisted reproduction, the social responsibility of the physician, the legal regulation of medical disciplinary liability**);
- issues regarding **terminally-ill patients and palliative care**;
- bioethical aspects related to **transplantation** (ethical unacceptability of implicit consent; study regarding transplant acceptance);
- **patients' rights, deontological obligations of medical professions** (legal aspects; their specificity in Dental Medicine; the need for patients' rights to be doubled by patients' obligations);
- **non-discrimination in the health system** (the research within the project "Medical higher education oriented towards a non-discriminatory treatment of patients" - ID 142145, POSDRU/156/1.2/G/142145 led to the introduction of a **mandatory course of "Non-Discrimination in the Health System"** at the Faculty of Medicine - LBU, as a national premiere in medical higher education; the modern textbook of this course was developed based on the needs of the students, as identified by the research activity; the final part of the project had as a main objective of research the development of **an innovative software for assessing attitudes towards vulnerable groups**, aimed at objectively and scientifically investigating discriminatory perceptions and attitudes).

Research involving a Forensic Pathology-Bioethics interdisciplinary approach was needed in the following areas of interest:

- study of the bioethical and forensic coordinates of **euthanasia** (the study of the pros and cons; the critical analysis of the "right" to die; euthanasia in Romanian criminal law); euthanasia is a particular type of violent death, which makes it a subject of study of Forensic Pathology, but, at the same time, the euthanasia decision has deep moral-ethical and deontological implications;
- contributions to the field of **forensic deontology** (particular aspects of confidentiality in the forensic practice; the need for a forensic ethical code);
- **ethics of manipulation of the dead human body** (moral and ethical valuing of the dead human body; ethical and legal aspects of its use for scientific, legal and didactic purposes);
- the study of **the ethical "cremation versus burial" dilemma** (the forensic implications of the option for cremation; research on the acceptability of cremation versus burial and on the underlying reasons for choosing one of these methods).

The second part of the thesis was dedicated to presenting **the main directions of my academic, scientific and professional career development**. At this point I have also shown **the research topics** that I intend to use in my future PhD coordinator activity. Some of them are a natural continuation of my current fields of interest (juvenile delinquency, forensic toxicology, suicide research, ethical and deontological aspects of medical and forensic practice); other ones are targeting new areas of research (forensic traumatology, interdisciplinary assessment of the mourning reaction, investigation of the reaction to traumatic events, assessment of discriminatory attitudes in medical practice or in the academic environment etc.).

At the end, in **the third part**, I included an extensive **list of references**.