## **Abstract**

## Essentials of Professionalism for Dentists

Author name: Lydia Katrova

Department of Dental Public Health, Faculty of dental Medicine/Medical University of Sofia.

Sofia, Bulgaria, email:lydiakatrova@gmail.com

The purpose of this presentation is to share our experience with introducing the essentials of professionalism into the subject-oriented undergraduate dental curriculum to answer the evolving identity, integrity and inter-professional challenges the dental profession face now. We got aware of the need of integrating social and behavioral knowledge in the overall dental curriculum. The major educational objective of the "Essentials" was to provide the graduating doctors of dental medicine with appropriate knowledge, skills and attitude relevant to their socio-professional role of liberal practitioners, while partnering the public healthcare system, especially: understanding of social and public health phenomena and processes, which take place at individual, group and community level; analyzing health status determinants and health indicators; taking decisions based on critical evaluation of evidences; solving problems of technological, medical, legal and ethical concerns. Implementing a set of relevant topics under the label "Essentials of professionalism in dentistry" we tried to assist our students and graduate dentists to recognize, assess and solve problems through better communication and organization of work. In this relation we produced a series of three textbooks to refer core facts and newest findings relevant to the dental profession and the practice of dentistry. The text aimed to stay focused, balanced and concise, giving opportunity for upgrade and adoption, according national particularities while keeping in view the adequate global and longstanding professional performance. The content and sequence of the chapters are primarily meant to keep and develop professional autonomy, to encourage the development of professional knowledge and science, to ensure a decent professional realization, to inspire humanity and responsibility, as well as lifelong interest to perfection and safety at the working place.

## **Biography**

Lydia Katrova studied dentistry at the Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria and graduated as MDS in 1981. She started her research career at the Faculty of dental medicine of Sofia. She received her PhD degree in 1997 at the same institution. After a couple of postdoctoral training and specialization In France (Paris 5 Rene Decartes),1994), USA (UCLA, 2001-02) she obtained the position of an Associate Professor in 2008 and of a Full professor in 2013at the FDM-Sofia.

Her production consists of more than 300 works, including 106 publications (3 monographies, 13 textbooks, 90 papers in Bulgarian, English, and French). 109 contributions (47 international and 62 national), 47 articles' reviews (41 in English, 5 in Bulgarian and 1 review of a monograph), 3 reviews of international graduating student theses (1 in Bulgaria, 1 in France, and 1 in Canada), 12 reviews of academic grade awarding (10 in Bulgaria, 1 in FAROM, 1 in USA), 8 reviews of scientific projects, 3 international institutional and program accreditation procedures' participation. She is a dentist, specialist in public health, doctor in sociology, experienced teacher, skilled in curricula design, lecturing, international relations, and healthcare research. She lectures and teaches the courses to undergraduate and graduate students, dental practitioners in Social Medicine, Medical Ethics, Public Health; Community Dentistry and Dental Practice Management; Ethics and Deontology; Dental ergonomics, Research methods, and Burnout prevention. She directs PhD students, including international students; leads students research groups ("Dental ergonomics", "Research and writing", "Sociological investigations"). She cooperates for the elaboration of regulations relevant to health and education reforms; organizes national and international research and professional meetings.

Her merits are recognized with the GSK and ADEE SHLARSHIP "Sociology in dentistry" for 2020, the Sign of merit "SIGNUM LAUDIS" for contributing to the implementation of advanced educational and research activities at the MU of Sofia for 2012 and the Award for mature educators Excellence in Dental Education" of the ADEE for 2011. Her biography is included in the "Great Bulgarian Doctors" Book for 2010, the Golden medal "Excellence in educational and social skills achievements in high school".

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Session Name: dental education Email lydiakatrova@gmail.com

Alternative email:Lydia\_katrova@yahoo.com

Contact Number:00359 0888 569742 Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn: Lydia Katrova

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