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**To the Rector of
“George Emil Palade” University
of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science
and Technology**

Dear Prof. Dr. Leonard Azamfirei!

The Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR) expresses its gratitude for your trust in education quality assessment and informs that at the meeting of the Accreditation Council on December 22, 2023 (Minutes No. 80) the following recommendations of the External Expert Panel aimed at further improving the quality of the educational programmes were adopted:

Medicine in English (Targu Mures, Romania)

Standard “MISSION AND OUTCOMES”

1. To the management of the university: The university is advised to initiate a dialogue with the authorized body, namely the ministry, in order to secure greater autonomy and academic freedom. This is crucial for the dynamic development of educational programmes, to adopt innovative teaching strategies, and the successful implementation of educational initiatives. Such autonomy is essential for the university to operate more effectively within the global and European educational landscape, enabling a flexible response to the evolving needs of stakeholders and the realities of healthcare systems.

The deadline for this initiative is set for the beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

2. To the management of the university: It is advisable for the university to establish a mechanism to actively engage students in research activities. This should facilitate communication between potential research leaders and students who have an interest in specific research areas. The university should also develop a structured process for student involvement in ongoing or upcoming research projects, including those in teaching hospitals and other collaborating organizations. One of the suggested approaches is the creation of an information platform which would serve to provide comprehensive and detailed guidance to students on matters related to research opportunities.

The deadline for implementing these measures is set for the beginning of the next academic year. (September 1, 2024).

3. To the management of the university: It is recommended that the university actively engage the leadership of teaching hospitals, along with other entities within the healthcare system, and alumni in comprehensive discussions regarding the university's mission, learning outcomes, teaching strategies, programme content, and research initiatives. Various approaches and tools can be used to facilitate this collaboration. This may include organizing joint events and meetings at different levels, with involvement of students' representatives.

These initiatives should be implemented by the beginning of the next academic year. (September 1, 2024).

Standard "EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME"

1. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: The university is advised to incorporate topics related to medical law, such as patient rights, physician responsibilities, principles of information confidentiality, and fundamental legal principles of the healthcare system, into the curriculum during the first or second year, prior to the commencement of clinical training. An example of an appropriate course for this integration is "Patient-Doctor Communications". Deadline: September 1, 2024.

2. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme. Additionally, the university should expand the adoption of active learning and teaching methods. Team-Based Learning (TBL) proves effective when applied to an entire discipline rather than individual topics. While Case-Based Learning (CBL) is already actively incorporated into the curriculum, Problem-Based Learning (PBL) offers increased opportunities for cultivating clinical thinking and clinical reasoning. Deadline: September 1 2025

Standard "ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS"

1. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: It is advisable to incorporate the MiniCex method for assessing clinical practical skills, in addition to the OSCE methodology and medical simulation using standardized patients, virtual simulation – primarily in senior courses – and work-based assessment for summative evaluation. The selection of assessment methods should encompass a diverse range, tailored to the specific learning outcomes and competencies under examination. It is crucial to consider the varied cognitive abilities and learning styles of students to ensure fairness, reliability, and appropriateness in the assessment process.

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year. (September 1, 2024).

2. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: Implement methodologies for assessing professional behavior and attitudes starting from the early years of training at all levels aligning with the specific learning outcomes in each discipline, particularly in clinical settings. To achieve this, incorporate peer assessment, self-assessment, and 360-degree assessment tools, along with work-based assessment for clinical subjects. These

assessment methods may involve external examiners, such as professionals from clinics and teaching hospitals.

The deadline for the implementation of these assessment methods is set for the beginning of the next academic year. (September 1, 2024).

Standard "PROGRAMME EVALUATION"

To the management of the university: Establish a comprehensive system for collecting and analyzing feedback from both teachers and students. Ensure widespread dissemination and discussion of the results with all stakeholders to enhance transparency and refine various aspects of the educational process, including programme modifications, content adjustments, and advancements in teaching and assessment strategies. The system of surveys and interviews can be seamlessly integrated into an automated university management system.

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year. (September 1, 2024).

The External Expert Panel made the following conclusions on the criteria of IAAR Standards: 4% of strong criteria, 90% of satisfactory criteria, 6% criteria requiring improvement, no unsatisfactory criteria.

Medicine in English (Hamburg, Germany)

International Initial Accreditation (Ex-Ante)

MISSION AND OUTCOMES

1. To the management of the university: There is no opportunity to perform basic research on the campus in Hamburg, no free laboratories to conduct research and for this purpose adequately equipped lab spaces. The university should find a strategy to equip a multiuser research lab with basic equipment to offer it for student`s research projects.

The deadline for implementing these measures is set July 2025.

2. To the management of the university: a structured plan should be developed and realized to integrate students in research projects at the university in Hamburg and at the teaching hospitals e.g., an information and communication platform. Teaching hospitals should be incorporated as partners in research projects. In addition, a quality assessment of potential thesis projects should be developed. Since local scientific research cooperation with other scientific institutes in Hamburg/Germany are very rare these collaborations should be further developed in this context.

The deadline for implementing these measures is set for the beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

3. To the management of the university: The university should intensify communication with the authorized bodies, e.g., the Romanian ministry, to achieve greater academic freedom in regard to fulfill the mission of academic freedom. This is crucial for the flexible development of educational programmes, implementation of novel teaching strategies and shape the education according to emerging challenges in Europe and its health care system, recognizing the needs of stakeholders.

The deadline for this initiative is set for the beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

4. To the management of the university: The university should develop a concept to involve the leadership of teaching hospitals, stakeholders, and alumni (2025) in discussions regarding the adaption of the university's mission, teaching programme and activities, student's learning outcomes, and research initiatives.

The deadline for this initiative is set for the beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

1. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: Topics related to medical law, such as patient rights, physician responsibilities, principles of information confidentiality, and fundamental legal principles of the healthcare system, should be incorporated into the curriculum during the first or second year, before the start of clinical training. It could be a course focusing on "Patient-Doctor Communications".

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

2. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: The university should expand active learning and teaching units. Team-Based Learning (TBL) proves effective when applied to an entire discipline rather than individual topics.

While Case-Based Learning (CBL) is already actively incorporated into the curriculum, Problem-Based Learning (PBL) helps to develop clinical thinking and clinical reasoning.

Integration of PBL requires adaptations of the curriculum.

Deadline: September 1, 2025.

3. To ensure the representation of teachers, students, representatives from other interested parties, including representatives from clinical, industrial bases, healthcare professionals involved in the learning process in the composition of the EO committee responsible for EP.

Deadline: September 1, 2024

STUDENT ASSESSMENT POLICY

1. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: The MiniCex method should be applied for assessing clinical practical skills, in addition to the OSCE methodology. The selection of assessment methods should include a broader range, addressing the specific learning outcomes and competencies under examination. It should consider the individual learning styles and abilities of students to guarantee fairness, reliability, and appropriateness of the assessment procedure.

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

2. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: Implement methodologies for assessing professional behavior and attitudes starting from the early years of training at all levels aligning with the specific learning outcomes in each discipline, particularly in clinical settings. To achieve this,

incorporate peer assessment, self-assessment, and 360-degree assessment tools, along with work-based assessment for clinical subjects. These assessment methods may involve external examiners, such as professionals from clinics and teaching hospitals.

The deadline for the implementation of these assessment methods is set for the beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

STUDENTS

1. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: The counselling services should integrate a professional psychologist support in future. A clear statement how disabled students are supported could be outlined.

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

2. Quality assessment unit: The evaluation process of teaching staff is performed once per year and the frequency should be increased (e.g., after each module).

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

ACADEMIC STAFF/FACULTY

1. To leaders and coordinators of the educational programme: The training plans mentioned above in regard to Psycho-pedagogical Medico-Pharmaceutical Training Center should be realized in Hamburg.

Deadline: January 1, 2025.

2. A motivational system for the academic staff should be implemented/adapted to insert novel educational strategies and research issues in teaching.

Deadline: January 1, 2025.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

1. To the management of the university: Virtual reality should be provided also in the Hamburg branch of the university (obviously in progress).

The deadline for implementing these measures is set September 1, 2024.

2. To the management of the university: There is no opportunity to perform basic research on the campus in Hamburg, no free laboratories to conduct research and for this purpose adequately equipped lab spaces. The university should develop a strategy to equip a multiuser research lab with basic equipment to offer it for student`s research projects.

The deadline for implementing these measures is set July 2025.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

To the management of the university: Establish a comprehensive system for collecting and analyzing feedback from both teachers and students. Ensure widespread dissemination and discussion of the results with all stakeholders to enhance transparency and refine various aspects of the educational process, including programme modifications, content adjustments, and advancements in teaching and assessment strategies. The system of surveys and interviews

can be seamlessly integrated into an automated university management system.

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

To the management of the university: to develop a strategy of better involvement of teaching hospital representatives and stakeholders in the evaluation process of an educational programme.

Deadline: beginning of the next academic year (September 1, 2024).

The External Expert Panel made the following conclusions on the criteria of IAAR Standards: 5% of strong criteria, 87% of satisfactory criteria, 8% criteria requiring improvement, no unsatisfactory criteria.

Taking into account the results of the external assessment, IAAR Accreditation Council has decided that «George Emil Palade» University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science and Technology meets the necessary requirements for obtaining international accreditation:

- international programme accreditation of educational programmes:

1) Medicine in English (Targu Mures, Romania) **for 5 (five) years**

2) Medicine in English (Hamburg, Germany) (Initial Accreditation) **for 5 (five) years**

In case of disagreement with the decision of the Accreditation Council, the educational organisation has the right to appeal to the IAAR Appeals and Complaints Commission.

The Review Reports of the External Expert Panel, which reflects overall experts' assessment of the educational programmes for compliance with IAAR standards are attached to the letter.

In connection with the above, we congratulate you and the University staff on the successful completion of international accreditation, as well as the upcoming New Year 2024! We wish you good health, creative success and fruitful activity!

Annexes:

- Accreditation Certificate – 2 sheets

- Report on the Results of the EEP Medicine in English (Targu Mures, Romania) – 59 sheets

- Report on the Results of the EEP Medicine in English (Hamburg, Germany) – 59 sheets

**Yours sincerely,
General Director**



Dr. Alina Zhumagulova