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Abstract. The SARS COV-2 viral infection has had an inevitable impact on all segments of the population and their social and professional productivity. During the year 2020, all public attention, both conventional and scientific medical, focused on solving an urgent problem that affected the whole world - to stop the spread of the disease and reduce the associated morbidity and mortality. The world scientific community turned to the search for new solutions. At the same time, a large mass of scientists who continued or started scientific projects not related to the COVID-19 virus, but which required no less serious approaches and work despite the developing pandemic of a viral infection, struggled to do their best to complete the assigned tasks.  

Keywords: COVID-19 viral infection, scientific productivity, scientific research laboratory.
The implementation of a scientific project funded from budgetary funds requires from the participants a highly conscious approach and a level of responsibility, especially if the topic aimed at improving the quality of the condition of patients with chronic liver and pancreatic diseases, the development of new algorithms for the approach at the national level. The problem of fulfilling the assigned tasks, which were determined in mid-October 2019 during the submission of a scientific project for the competition, also affected our scientific research laboratory of gastroenterology, when on January 30, 2020 WHO announced a viral disease that suddenly appeared at the end of 2019 and, as it soon turned out, tends to spread rapidly internationally. This entailed significant changes and restrictions both at the international and national levels in the Republic of Moldova. In the month of March State, issued very special documents based the Decision no. 6/2020 of the Extraordinary National Commission of Public Health regarding the evolution of the epidemiological situation of COVID-19 infection [1]. Rector of State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu” followed the legal State Decisions and came up with the corresponding subsequent set of documents (in order to limit the spread of viral infection) to all university employees with recommendation to continue working on the distance in case there was a danger of the spread of a viral infection. The employees of the scientific research laboratory were denied access to their workplaces, except for individual employees at certain hours, due to the re-profiling of clinical departments (on the basis of which the laboratory offices were located), for patients with suspected viral respiratory infection COVID-19. Some of the primary working materials that were not included in the electronic database were locked there as well. Because from the beginning of the year the team began work on a new project, it was especially important to establish communication with new employees, to create routine work mechanisms that could ensure the successful completion of tasks for the first half of the year and, as it turned out, until the end of the year. Particular difficulties presented our disunity and psychological pressure from the mass media about the wave of massive severe morbidity. Similar issues reported in a related article Nicola Byrom as well as Lorna Thomson, Director of the University of Edinburgh Research Office, and Scott Mills, Associate Vice
President of Research at the University of Montana [2, 3]. At first, the use of telephony showed its inconsistency in terms of ensuring full communication between researchers to create a virtual working field and fully involve new colleagues in the development of the research protocol and other tasks. Moreover, the monitoring of working hours, which is an important part of the work of every employee, was also an important issue that required permission. To solve this issue, our colleague Berezovscaia E. created a Program for Daily Monitoring of scientific activity of researchers, based on EXCEL, simple and effective in use. The development of individual monthly reports by Lupasco Iu. made it possible to timely submit to a higher authority a monthly report on the activity and quality of work of the research laboratory staff within the requested time frame.

Another problem, which is for some reason very little talked about, however, is essential, is the lack of an individual computer for all laboratory employees. Stationary computers remained closed in our offices (4 = 100%), some colleagues had to share the time using their laptops with their family members (3 out of 16 18.75%) during work or study. Moreover, it should be noted that the existing laptops in 68.75% of cases are personal, and those of which belong to the laboratory not all are modern enough (40% of which were purchased in 2011-2013) to operate at a new level.

It is also important that working with a large amount of electronic documents is difficult in daily activities, especially in people with impaired vision, especially with a history of eye surgery. Remains behind the scenes information about the inability to print out the regulatory documents, articles, etc. necessary for work. Since not every employee has a printer for personal use at home (12.5%), the availability of paper and toner in sufficient quantities, which, unfortunately, also tend to be completed. A serious difficulty was the requirement to use a scanner to confirm the signatures on the relevant documents, which presupposed the availability of appropriate equipment, since the quality of scanning with the help of a phone left much to desire.

The use of simple Internet resources such as Viber, Zoom, and Google-meet allowed us to restore communication between employees, while the Google drive
cloud storage, in which our work was stored, made it possible to quickly reorganize the work in virtual mode and complete the assigned tasks. However, the important thing is that the change in the working regime also entailed a restructuring of the approach to use, both from the point of view of its orientation, and from the side of efficiency and duration. An analysis of the daily activity monitoring of the laboratory's researchers revealed an interesting pattern that in the first 2 months there was a so-called “swing” in the approach to work of a number of employees. Afterwards 62.5% of colleagues worked not just with great dedication, but started working earlier and finished later than normal working hours, and 25% of the total number of employees worked on their projects even on weekends.

Talking about the focus, almost all researchers (93.75%) set themselves additional tasks to improve their qualifications in connection with the opened free access to online training seminars with obtaining of 87 international certificates with confirmation of the hours listened, while national - 16, international workshops - 55 with certificates of participation. Compared to the same first year over the start of the previous scientific project (in 2015), 13 researchers participated in 9 congresses and conferences of international importance (in Turkey, Romania, Austria, Spain and France), presenting their work personally and communicating with scientists from other countries. 2020 participation was limited by the online regime format at the international level in 4 conferences (most in Russia, Romania) with communications and e-posters by 9 researchers, at the national level with international participation during 1 conference 1 report, while at the national level 15 scientific researches took part in 6 conferences with communications and e-posters.

From the data presented, it is clear that the scientific activity of employees has received a direction due to the pandemic in terms of enhanced self-education, training in the use of new Internet resources and the maximum use of existing knowledge. In addition, the presentation of the works has changed, the printed format of the posters has replaced the electronic version of the design with the online presence of the authors during the evaluation of the submitted works.

Of the great importance is that the competently set tasks for the formation of an electronic database, the beginning of which started during the previous scientific
project, made it possible to develop a research protocol on time. Additional knowledge in related fields and specialties of statistics, psychology, ethics of relationships allowed our scientific group to unite, consolidate our knowledge to accomplish the assigned tasks, supplementing them with the publication of a number of practical guidelines for doctors and patients on monitoring patients with various chronic liver diseases in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic [4, 5, 6].

**Conclusion**

1. The pandemic of viral infection disrupted the usual rhythm of life of the scientific research team and forced to look for new ways of solutions to implement the tasks set earlier.

2. Cohesion and consolidation of existing knowledge and resources, including technical ones, allowed the working group to build a new working mechanism and fulfill the assigned tasks.

**References:**

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