

# MORENA SHKODRA

## EMPLOYMENT

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| <b>Emergency Physician</b> | <b>Durres Regional Hospital</b> | <b>Mar 2017 – Present</b> |
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- Giving first aid and prompt care to acutely ill patients.
- Diagnosing and forming treatment plans for a wide variety of illnesses.
- Examining patients and prescribing necessary tests.
- Working in a team composed by many healthcare members.

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| <b>Rotatory Internship</b> | <b>Durres Regional Hospital</b> | <b>Nov 2016 – Feb 2017</b> |
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- One-month internship in the General Surgery Department where I assisted various surgical interventions.
- One-month internship in the Internal Medicine Department where I regularly assisted in the doctors' visits and monitored patients' status.
- One-month internship in the Department of Pediatrics.

## EDUCATION

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| <b>Tirana, Albania</b> | <b>University of Medicine Tirana</b> | <b>Oct 2010 – Nov 2016</b> |
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- Master of Science in General Medicine.
- Diploma Thesis: "Performance in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit".

## PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

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- Xhumari, A., Shkodra, M., Shurdhi, A., Neço, A., & Agaj, H. (2014, January). *Timing of endovascular intervention in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Comparison of the results achieved after early and late intervention*. Paper presented at The National Conference of Medical Sciences, Tirana, Albania.  
([http://kkshm.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/4/7/40472427/libri\\_i\\_abstrakteve\\_-\\_kkshm\\_i\\_-\\_2014.pdf](http://kkshm.weebly.com/uploads/4/0/4/7/40472427/libri_i_abstrakteve_-_kkshm_i_-_2014.pdf), page 39-40, in Albanian)

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES AND AWARDS

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- Awarded Gold Medal by Albanian Prime Minister in 2010 upon finishing high school with highest honors.
  - Worked online for 5 consecutive months as medical content writer for the Italian medical site [miodottore.it](http://miodottore.it) at company White based in Poland.
  - Worked as virtual assistant, public relations manager and translator for Diva esthetic clinic, Tirana.
  - Worked online as digital health content writer for the startup [digitalhealth.careers](http://digitalhealth.careers) based in Cologne, Germany

## INTERESTS

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- Medical Research, Neurology, Genetics, Oncology, Clinical Practice, Palliative Care.

## LANGUAGES

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- Albanian: Native language.
  - English: Full professional proficiency.
  - Italian: Full professional proficiency.
  - Spanish: Limited working proficiency.
  - German: Elementary proficiency.

Dear selection committee,

My name is Morena Shkodra and I am expressing my sincere interest in applying for the research fellowship position at Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, in the domain of neuropathic pain in cancer patients. I am very interested in pursuing a career in research, especially in the fields of cancer treatment, palliative care and neurology, therefore I think that a position in this project will help me achieve my academic and professional goals.

I have recently graduated from the University of Medicine Tirana (UMT) and I hold a Master of Science in General Medicine. During the period I have been studying General Medicine, I gradually acquired an interest especially in the fields of Neurology, Genetics and Oncology. Physiology and Pathophysiology classes fascinated me and helped me change the way I used to understand diseases and their mechanisms. As a medical student, I have had the opportunity to follow up different patients with different diagnosis and of them all, none is more helpless in my country than oncological patients. In Albania approximately 3500 new cases of cancer are encountered per year and in comparison with the last few years the number of people affected has increased by 30 percent. Due to the heterogeneity of pain characteristics and mechanisms an optimal assessment of cancer pain is essential. It is a belief of mine that considering the individual variability in pain perception and differences in the efficacy of analgesics, much can still be done to help oncological patients obtain a better quality of life by implementing a more appropriate oncological management.

Although Albania currently does not offer the opportunity to work more on the fields I am interested in, I have been actively involved in research work during my studies. I have participated in The National Conference of Medical Sciences Albania many times and in January 2014 I presented a research paper titled *"Timing of endovascular intervention in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage: Comparison of the results achieved after early and late intervention"* coauthored with Dr. Artur Xhumari, a neurosurgeon and professor in the University of Medicine Tirana. During this research I learned how to work in a group and how to gather the necessary data. My other research experience was my diploma thesis *"Performance of the Pediatric Index of Mortality 2 in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit"* which consisted in the evaluation of the Pediatric Index of Mortality 2 (PIM2) used as an outcome predictor. This type of research was the first of its kind in our hospital and due to the results achieved, nowadays the head of the Department of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is using the PIM 2 as a predictor for every patient admitted in the unit. The project helped me acquire persistence and determination in solving problems.

Having graduated from the University of Medicine Tirana with a cumulative GPA of 9.1/10, with my theoretical knowledge, passion and work ethic, I consider myself a solid candidate and I believe that a position in this research project is ideal for me. I humbly believe that my determination and willingness to work hard under the supervision of prominent scientists and within well-equipped research facilities will help me give a real contribution in improving palliative care in oncology.

I appreciate the opportunity to apply to your program and the efforts you invested in assessing my application.

Kind regards,

Morena Shkodra.