

**Prof. Elena Ilieva, MD, PhD (Bulgaria)**

Prof. Ilieva is the Head of the Chair of PRM at the Medical University of Plovdiv, Vice Dean of Medical Faculty, and Head of the Department of PRM at the University Hospital "Sv. Georgi", Plovdiv, Bulgaria. She is a National consultant in PRM to the Bulgarian Ministry of Health.

After obtaining a medical degree at the Medical University of Plovdiv in 1990, she specialized in PRM and was certified as a specialist in PRM in 1997. She is a Fellow of the European Board of PRM since 2008. She has a Master's degree in Health Management.

Elena Ilieva received her PhD in PRM "Knee osteoarthritis (mechanisms and new methods of assessment of muscle weakness and hypotrophy) and Rehabilitation of Patients with knee replacement" in 2000, and became a full academy Professor in 2013. She is Director of Programmes for postgraduate and undergraduate education in PRM of medical students and PRM trainees, physiotherapists, nurses, midwives and of PhD students. She is President of the National Board for examination and certification of medical doctors in PRM since 2012. Her fields of research are: musculoskeletal disorders: osteoarthritis, joint replacement, osteoporosis, overuse syndromes; extracorporeal shock wave therapy; neurological rehabilitation: stroke, cerebral palsy, spasticity.

As a National consultant to the Ministry of Health she has expertise in the organization of PRM services in Bulgaria; she is chairman of the Working Group for the elaboration of the Medical standards /guidelines in PRM and of the clinical pathways in PRM, which are the basis for funding PRM activities by the National Health Insurance Fund. She acts in collaboration with Associations of persons with disabilities and other patient organizations.

She has been elected for two terms from 2007 to 2015 as a General Secretary of the PRMESPRM. She is a delegate to the UEMS-PRM, National Manager, member of the Professional practice committee. She is member of the Education Committee of the International Society of PRM and member of Executive committee of the Bulgarian Association of Physical medicine and rehabilitation. She is Associate Editor of the Bulgarian Journal in PRM and member of the editorial boards of other international journals in the field.