

## **Doctoral Degree Regulations of the Faculty of Medicine**

### **Dr. med. and Dr. med. dent.**

English version for reference only!

Disclaimer: **This translation** of the “Promotionsordnung Dr. med. und Dr. med. dent. der Medizinischen Fakultät der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn vom 13. Juli 2017” published in “Amtliche Bekanntmachungen 47. Jahrgang, Nr. 19” **is not legally binding.**

## **Doctoral degree regulations Dr. med. and Dr. med. dent. at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn of July 13, 2017**

Due to sections 2 para. 4 and 64 para. 1 of the Higher Education Act in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (Hochschulgesetz - HG) of September 16, 2014 (GV. NRW. clause 547), last amended by articles 3 and 4 of the law to reinforce the provision of a pension in the event of care and to amend further regulations from April 7, 2017 (GV. NRW. clause 414), the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn has approved the following doctoral degree regulations:

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## **I. General information**

### **Section 1 Doctorate**

(1) The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn awards the academic degree of Doctor medicinae (Dr. med.) and Doctor medicinae dentariae (Dr. med. dent.) based on a doctoral examination procedure and in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

(2) During the doctorate, particular academic qualification, beyond a university degree, is demonstrated by means of independent research work.

(3) The doctoral components consist of:

1. Successful participation in a course in accordance with section 4 para. 2,
2. A doctoral thesis in accordance with section 6,
3. The oral examination component in accordance with section 9.

(4) The doctoral examination procedure is not public, with the exception of the awarding of the certificate. The members of the doctoral board, the examiners, the observers, and the reviewers are subject to official secrecy. Insofar as they are not in the public service, they are to be sworn to secrecy by the chairperson of the doctoral board.

(5) The provisions of section 17 apply to the awarding of the honorary doctorate (Dr. med. h.c., Dr. med. dent. h.c.).

### **Section 2 Doctoral board**

(1) To organize the doctoral examination procedure and to complete the tasks assigned by these doctoral degree regulations, the Faculty council in the Faculty of Medicine forms a doctoral board. The doctoral board verifies the requirements for admission to the doctorate (section 5), the opening of the doctoral examination procedure (section 7), the approval for the oral examination, and appoints the examiners for the oral examination (section 9). The Dean of the Faculty ensures that the doctoral board fulfills and can fulfill its duties in due form. The Dean issues the instructions necessary for this.

(2) The doctoral board consists of ten members elected from the Faculty council. Eight members are elected from the group of professors. One member is elected from the group of academic staff and one member is elected from the group of students. Professors of the Faculty of Medicine, including assistant professors and adjunct professors, where these are members of the University of Bonn, are eligible for election to the doctoral board. The members of the group of academic staff in the Faculty who hold a doctorate are eligible for election. The members of the group of students who are enrolled as students in the clinical section or study or as doctoral students at the Faculty of Medicine are eligible for election. One deputy is elected per member. The term of office of the members from the group of professors and from the group of academic staff is three years, the term of office for student members is one year. Re-election is permitted. The doctoral board elects a chairperson from among its members and a deputy from the group of professors.

(3) The doctoral board is the authority in terms of the administrative procedural laws.

(4) The Faculty establishes an office to provide administrative support to the doctoral board. This is managed by the Dean.

(5) The doctoral board ensures that the provisions of the doctoral degree regulations are observed and that the examinations are conducted in due form. It can transfer the completion of tasks by resolution to the chairperson.

(6) The meetings of the doctoral board are not public. Minutes are taken of the consultations and decisions of the doctoral board, which are to be included in the doctoral file.

(7) The doctoral board has a quorum if, besides the chairperson or his/her deputy, at least two professors are present. It decides with a simple majority. In the event of a tied vote, the chairperson has the deciding vote.

(8) Orders, the setting of dates, and other notifications by the doctoral board that not only affect individual people are announced by means of notices or in an electronic form while abiding by data protection with a legally binding effect. Additional announcements made in another manner are permitted, but are not legally binding.

### **Section 3 Doctoral supervision**

(1) Any full-time professor, adjunct professor, retired professor, honorary professor, assistant professor or lecturer (Privatdozent) at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn is entitled to supervise a doctoral student. This right also applies to heads of competitively assessed excellence programs in accordance with the appendix. Section 65 para. 1 HG remains unaffected. In these cases, the doctoral thesis topic is allocated in coordination with the head of the institute or clinic.

(2) The primary supervisor is the professor responsible for the supervision of the doctoral student in accordance with the supervision agreement (responsible professor).

(3) A doctoral relationship that is binding for both parties is established through the confirmation of academic supervision and the allocation of a doctoral thesis topic. This is to be documented in writing in a contractual form (supervision agreement). Joint supervision by staff with doctorates is to be stated, giving their names. Besides the doctoral thesis topic, the supervision agreement contains a work plan (orienting abstract), a passage on the necessity of an ethics committee vote, a corresponding comment in the event of planned animal testing, and reference to the directives to ensure good scientific practice at the University of Bonn in the respective valid version.

## **II. Qualification phase**

### **Section 4 Content of the qualification phase**

(1) The doctoral thesis is produced during the qualification phase. The qualification phase is research-oriented. The doctoral students should acquire a well-founded understanding of academic problems, in-depth expert knowledge, and the ability to undertake interdisciplinary work. To do this, they should

1. Undertake a research activity at an institute or clinic of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn or an institution that cooperates with it and

2. Participate in a doctoral program, research training group for doctoral students or graduate program at the University of Bonn or an institution that cooperates with the University of Bonn.

However, the qualification phase can also be conducted without participating in structured doctoral studies in accordance with 2. The decision regarding this is made by the doctoral board.

(2) For all doctoral students, the attendance of a research-related course, which usually corresponds to the scope of one semester period per week, is mandatory during the qualification phase. Successful participation in the course is to be demonstrated by a certificate of attendance when applying for the opening of the doctoral examination procedure (section 7).

(3) For doctoral students who have completed university studies, the enrollment obligation for doctoral studies arises from section 67 para. 5 HG.

## **Section 5 Admission**

(1) The admission to the doctorate for the Dr. med. or Dr. med. dent. requires the submission of the certificate for the fully passed Medical or Dental Examination or an equivalent degree abroad.

(2) The doctoral board decides on the recognition of university certificates obtained by a candidate at a foreign higher education institution. This decision is based, among other things, on a list maintained by the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (Central Office for Foreign Education – ZAB) at the office of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany. The recognition is to be clarified before the start of the doctorate as part of admission.

(3) Admission must be requested from the doctoral board before writing the doctoral work. The following are to be enclosed with the admission application:

1. Information about the candidate's academic career,
2. Certificate for the fully passed Medical or Dental Examination or an equivalent degree abroad,
3. Clarification from the candidate regarding whether and, if applicable, with what outcome he has applied for a doctoral examination procedure at another higher education institution or another faculty at the University of Bonn,
4. An agreement between the candidate and supervisor,
5. A work plan, for which the responsible professor is jointly responsible and which he signs.

(4) Candidates who have passed the First Section of the Medical Examination in accordance with AppO or the Dental Preliminary Examination in accordance with ZAppO can apply for approval for admission to the qualification phase (provisional admission). The following are to be enclosed with the application for provisional admission:

1. Information about the candidate's academic career,
2. Certificate for the passed preliminary examination and a current certificate of enrollment,
3. Clarification from the candidate regarding whether and, if applicable, with what outcome he has applied for a doctoral examination procedure at another higher education institution or another faculty at the University of Bonn,
4. An agreement between the candidate and supervisor,
5. A work plan, for which the responsible professor is jointly responsible and which he signs.

## **Section 6**

### **Doctoral thesis**

(1) The doctoral thesis must be an academic work that represents an advancement in academic knowledge and demonstrates the ability to undertake independent academic work and present the results in an appropriate manner. The doctoral thesis should be written in German or English.

(2) An original publication (publication doctoral thesis) that has been accepted for publication in an international journal and for which the doctoral student is named as the lead author is equivalent to this doctoral thesis. Paragraph 1 clause 2 is applied accordingly.

(3) For the publication, the doctoral student must have undertaken the predominant share of the planning of the academic work, data collection, evaluation, and interpretation, and have written the first draft of the manuscript himself.

(4) In the event of a publication doctoral thesis, a summary of the work in German or English must also be submitted. The summary should adequately reflect the topic area handled in eight to ten pages and is to be divided into: Title, author(s), abstract, introduction, objectives, methods, results, discussion, bibliography.

(5) The responsible professor ensures that the doctoral student produces the doctoral thesis independently, with regular supervision, and in an appropriate period of time.

(6) The principles of the University of Bonn to ensure good scientific practice are to be observed. Parts of the doctoral work can, in consultation with the doctoral board, be conducted at a foreign research institution. The responsible professor ensures that the partner university/ research institution appoints at least one professor, who guides the doctoral student and reports on the accompanying training programs and the progress of the work.

(7) The allocation of the doctoral thesis topic does not establish entitlement to remuneration or an employment relationship.

(8) A doctoral thesis completed earlier may not be submitted again, unless the rejection took place due to the incompetence of another higher education institution or faculty.

## **III. Examination phase**

### **Section 7**

#### **Opening of the doctoral examination procedure**

(1) The application to open the procedure is submitted to the doctoral board. It can only take place once admission is complete (section 5). The following are to be enclosed with the application:

1. Three copies of the doctoral thesis; in the event of a publication doctoral thesis, consisting of the abstract and publication as an offprint copy or an excellent copy, and an electronic version of the doctoral thesis in PDF format,

2. A detailed statement signed by the candidate and the responsible professor regarding the proportion of the publication by the candidate if the doctoral thesis has been published in whole or in part. The candidate must also ensure that all sources and resources have been stated,

3. Evidence of the course in which the candidate has successfully participated (section 4),

4. A police clearance certificate that may be no more than eight weeks old on the day of submission,

5. A statement, according to which the candidate, in the event of section 13 parts a) and d), transfers to the University the right to produce and disseminate further copies of the doctoral thesis for university libraries as part of its legal tasks and make the copies available on data networks.

6. If provisional admission for the qualification phase is granted in accordance with section 5 para. 4, a certificate for the fully passed Medical or Dental Examination in accordance with section 5 para. 3 number 2 is to be enclosed with the application.

(2) If the application meets the requirements of paragraph 1, the doctoral examination procedure is opened. The candidate is notified of the decision in writing on request.

(3) It is not possible to withdraw the application once the doctoral examination procedure is opened.

## **Section 8**

### **Assessment of the doctoral thesis**

(1) Once the doctoral examination procedure is opened, the doctoral board requests the dissertation reviews from the first and second supervisors. The second supervisor is appointed by the doctoral board and may not belong to the working group, the institute, or the hospital of the responsible professor. At least one of the reviewers must be a full-time professor for life at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn. If the grades of both dissertation reviews deviate from one another by more than 2.0 (section 10), the doctoral board appoints a further professor, who is not also an examiner in this procedure, as a reviewer.

(2) The dissertation reviews regarding the doctoral thesis must be produced in writing and contain a justified recommendation concerning the acceptance, rejection or returning of the doctoral thesis for the purpose of modification. In the event of a publication doctoral thesis, the reviewer can recommend modification and resubmission as a doctoral thesis. Upon a recommendation to accept the doctoral thesis, a justified grade suggestion in accordance with the grading scale in section 10 must be made. The dissertation reviews should be submitted at the latest eight weeks after the request for assessment by the doctoral board. If a dissertation review has not been received ten weeks following the request, the doctoral board can replace a reviewer.

(3) If the doctoral thesis is graded as “not satisfactory” by a reviewer or a reviewer requests changes to the doctoral thesis, the candidate is to be informed of the deficiencies with reference to their correction. The revised doctoral thesis is to be resubmitted within one year and is assessed once again by the reviewers. If two reviewers assess the work as “not satisfactory”, even following revision, the doctoral thesis is considered rejected and the doctoral examination is considered not passed overall.

(4) If only one reviewer grades the doctoral thesis as “not satisfactory” following revision, the doctoral board appoints a further professor, who is not also an examiner in this procedure, as a reviewer. If this reviewer assesses the work as “not satisfactory”, the doctoral thesis is considered rejected and the examination is considered not passed overall.

(5) If the candidate rejects the proposed revision, or the revised doctoral thesis is not resubmitted within one year, the doctoral thesis is considered rejected and the doctoral examination as not passed overall.

(6) Following the rejection, the doctoral thesis remains with all of the dissertation reviews in the files of the doctoral board.

(7) The candidate is informed of the definitive failure of the doctoral examination procedure in accordance with para. 3 to 5 in a written notification by the doctoral board within two weeks following a prior hearing, stating the reasons. The decision includes instructions on the right to appeal.

(8) If two reviewers assess the doctoral thesis as at least “satisfactory” (3.0), the oral examination takes place.

(9) From the completion of the assessment of the doctoral thesis to the completion of the oral examination, although at least for 14 days, the doctoral thesis and the dissertation reviews are accessible in the office (section 2 para. 4) for confidential viewing by the doctorate-holding members of the Faculty of Medicine. In this period, objections are possible, which are to be submitted to the doctoral board with justification. The doctoral board decides whether these objections are taken into account.

(10) Following an examination that is not passed overall, admission to the doctoral examination procedure can only be requested one further time and, at the earliest, after one year on another subject.

## **Section 9 Oral examination**

(1) The oral examination consists of a doctoral defense. To this end, the doctoral board appoints two examiners. These are usually the primary supervisor of the doctoral thesis and an examiner from a previously selected elective chosen by the applicant outside of his doctoral thesis field. The second examiner must fulfil the qualification stated in section 3 para. 1. He/she is appointed by the doctoral board and may not belong to the working group, the institute, or the clinic of the first examiner.

(2) In the doctoral defense, which can be conducted in German or English, the ability of the candidate to present the subjects of his doctoral thesis and their categorization within the academic context of the respective medical speciality is verified in a specialist discussion. It should last a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes.

(3) During the oral examination, the attendance of an observer with a doctorate, who is appointed by the examiner, is required. Doctoral students who have registered for the same examination are admitted as listeners provided there is sufficient space, insofar as the candidate has not objected to the admission of listeners when registering for his examination. The admission of listeners does not extend to the consultations for and announcement of the examination result to the candidate.

(4) The oral examination should be completed at the latest six months following submission of the doctoral thesis. Upon request, the doctoral board can extend this period for specific reasons. The date for the oral examination is coordinated between the examiner and the doctoral student.

(5) Following the doctoral defense, the examination component is assessed by each of the examiners using the grading scale from section 10. The doctoral defense is considered passed if it has been assessed as at least "satisfactory".

(6) If the doctoral defense has not been passed, the doctoral board determines a new date for the doctoral defense. A repeat appointment can take place at the earliest three months and at the latest twelve months after the date for the failed examination.

## **Section 10 Grading**

(1) The following are approved as grades for the doctoral thesis and doctoral defense:

Excellent (0.0),

Very good (1.0),

Good (2.0),



Satisfactory (3.0),

Not satisfactory (4.0).

(2) If a candidate misses an oral examination without having submitted the requirements for a withdrawal from the examination attempt as defined by section 11, the missed examination component is assessed as “not satisfactory (4.0)”.

(3) An increase or decrease in a grade by the value minus 0.3 or plus 0.3 is permitted. The grade “excellent” cannot be increased, the grade “satisfactory” cannot be reduced, and the grade “not satisfactory” can neither be increased nor decreased.

(4) The arithmetic average of the doctoral thesis grades from the primary supervisor, the second supervisor and the doctoral defense grade, formed from the arithmetic average of both doctoral defense grades, determines, as follows, the overall grade for the doctorate:

summa cum laude with a value of 0.0,

magna cum laude with a value from 0.1 to 1.5,

cum laude with a value from 1.6 to 2.5,

rite with a value from 2.6 to 3.0.

If three dissertation reviews exist, the two better grades are used to calculate the overall grade. When determining the arithmetic average, only the first decimal place is taken into account; all further places are omitted without rounding.

(5) The assessment of the doctoral achievements in accordance with sections 8 and 9 should be completed at the latest six months following submission of the doctoral thesis.

## **Section 11**

### **Withdrawal, absence and complaints**

(1) A doctoral student can withdraw from an oral examination for good reason, particularly due to inability to attend the examination because of illness. The withdrawal is to be reported to the doctoral board immediately in writing. The reasons claimed for the withdrawal or absence must be demonstrated immediately in writing. A doctor’s certificate regarding the existence of inability to attend the examination is to be submitted to demonstrate the inability to attend the examination due to illness. On an individual basis, the doctoral board can request the submission of a statement by a medical officer that it appoints from the University if there are sufficient factual indications that it is likely that the candidate is fit to sit the examination or that suggest that another piece of evidence is appropriate. Withdrawal following the start of the examination is generally excluded, particularly if the candidate has already been able to view the result of the examination or has gained knowledge of it in another manner. If the doctoral board recognizes the evidence for the illness-related withdrawal or other valid reasons, the examination attempt is considered to have not been undertaken.

(2) The candidate must immediately lodge a complaint with the respective examiner regarding any deficiencies during an examination. The complaint must be logged and asserted with regard to the doctoral board. If the doctoral board recognizes the complaint, the examination attempt is considered to have not been undertaken.

## **Section 12**

### **Protective regulations, compensation for disadvantages**

(1) Upon notification by the doctoral student, maternity leave, as set down in the respectively applicable law on the protection of expectant and nursing mothers (MuSchG), is to be taken into account accordingly; the necessary evidence is to be enclosed. The maternity leave interrupts any deadline set according to these doctoral degree regulations; the duration of the maternity leave is not included in the deadline.

(2) Likewise, upon request, the periods of parental leave according to the respectively applicable law on parental allowance and parental leave (BEEG) are to be taken into account. At the latest four weeks before the time from which he wishes to take parental leave, the candidate must inform the doctoral board in writing of the period or periods during which he wishes to take parental leave, while enclosing the necessary evidence. The doctoral board verifies whether the statutory requirements are met that would give an employee entitlement to parental leave in accordance with BEEG, and immediately informs the candidate of the result and any new examination dates set.

(3) Periods of absence due to the care or treatment of spouses, civil partners, immediate relatives or first-degree relatives by marriage, if these require care or treatment, are to be taken into account on request. The doctoral board verifies whether the requirements of clause 1 are fulfilled. The application is to be submitted immediately once the requirements are fulfilled. Informative evidence is to be enclosed with the application. The doctoral board immediately informs the candidate of the result and any new examination dates set.

(4) If a doctoral student demonstrates, with suitable evidence, to the doctoral board that he/she is unable to apply his/her available intellectual abilities as part of the doctoral examination procedure due to a disability that is permanent or lasts for more than one semester or a chronic illness and is thus unable to complete an examination in whole or in part in the intended form and duration, the doctoral board permits the undertaking of equivalent examination components in a needs-based form, including within a suitably extended examination time where required.

## **Section 13**

### **Publication of the doctoral thesis**

The doctoral thesis is made accessible to the academic public in a suitable manner if the author, besides the three copies required for the examination files at the Faculty of Medicine, submits free of charge to the Bonn University and State Library (ULB) four complete, bound original copies for archiving, which must be printed on aging-resistant wood- and acid-free paper in a permanent binding, and also ensures dissemination through:

- a) The submission of a further 40 reproductions, each created by means of letterpress printing or photographic printing, or
- b) Evidence of publication in a journal, or
- c) Evidence of distribution in bookstores via a commercial publisher with a minimum print run of 150 copies; reference to the publication as a doctoral thesis, stating the doctoral thesis location, is to be made on the back of the title page,
- d) By submitting an electronic version, the file format and data carriers for which are to be coordinated with the University and State Library (ULB).

In the case of a) and d), the author transfers to the University the right to produce and disseminate further copies of his doctoral thesis as part of the legal tasks of a university library and make an electronic version available on data networks.

## **Section 14**

### **Issuing of the certificate**

(1) The doctoral examination procedure is completed with the issuing of the doctoral certificate. This is issued in German. On request, the graduate is given a translation in English.

The certificate must include:

1. The name of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn,
2. The awarded academic degree,
3. The name, date of birth and place of birth of the graduate,
4. The title of the doctoral thesis,
5. The overall grade of the doctorate,
6. The name of the responsible professor,
7. The name and signature of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn,
8. The embossed seal of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn,
9. The date of the oral examination,
10. The date of issue for the certificate.

(2) The doctoral certificate is presented to the graduate as part of a public graduation ceremony by the Dean, by one of the Vice Deans or by the chairperson of the doctoral board of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn. The certificate may only be issued once the doctoral student has fulfilled his duty to publish. The title "Dr. med." or "Dr. med. dent." is awarded with the issuing of the certificate. The graduate receives the certificate in person. The doctoral board decides on exceptions. The awarded academic degree may only be used upon the issuing of the doctoral certificate.

## **Section 15**

### **Declaration of invalidity of the examination components and revocation of the academic degree**

(1) If it is discovered during the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student is guilty of fraud, the assessment of the respective doctoral components can be amended accordingly, or parts of the doctoral procedure or the entire doctoral procedure declared invalid and/or not passed.

(2) If the doctoral student has committed fraud during a doctoral component and this only becomes known upon issuing the doctoral certificate, the assessment of the corresponding doctoral components can subsequently be amended or the awarded academic degree revoked.

(3) If the doctoral student has obtained admission to the doctorate through fraud, threats or bribery, the awarded academic degree can also be revoked when this becomes known. If the prerequisites for admission onto the doctorate were not fulfilled, without the doctoral student intending to deceive, and if this discrepancy only becomes known after the oral examination is passed, this discrepancy will be remedied by the passing of the doctoral examination procedure.

(4) If it is discovered during the doctoral examination procedure that the doctoral student has been legally sentenced to a custodial sentence of at least one year due to an intentional criminal offence

that has a reference to academia or that during the preparation or committing of which a doctorate was used, the Faculty can terminate the doctoral examination procedure and refuse to award the title. If it is discovered following the awarding of the doctorate that the title-holder has been legally sentenced to a custodial sentence due to a criminal offence as defined by clause 1, the awarded academic degree can be revoked by the Faculty.

(5) Decisions in accordance with paragraph 1 to 4, via which a doctoral examination procedure or parts thereof are declared invalid, require confirmation from the Faculty council.

(6) If the awarded academic degree is revoked in accordance with paragraph 2, 3 or 4 or the assessment of the doctoral achievements in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 has been amended, the doctoral certificate is to be revoked and, if necessary, a new doctoral certificate issued.

(7) The affected person is to be given opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

### **Section 16**

#### **Access to the examination files**

Once the doctoral examination procedure is completed, the doctoral student is allowed to view the dissertation reviews and the minutes on request, with this request submitted within one month following the passing of the oral examination or following notification of the definitive failure. Section 29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz) remains unaffected by this.

### **Section 17**

#### **Honorary doctorate**

(1) The Faculty can award an honorary doctorate (Dr. med. h.c.; Dr. med. dent. h.c.) for outstanding academic achievements or other special merits of a non-material nature relating to medical science.

(2) The honorary doctorate is awarded at the nomination of a habilitated member of the Faculty.

(3) The nomination is accepted if at least two thirds of the members of the Faculty council and also at least two thirds of the members of the group of professor of the Faculty of Medicine support the nomination.

(4) The honorary doctorate is awarded with the presentation of the certificate issued for this, showing the achievements of the person being honored.

### **Section 18**

#### **Renewal of the doctoral certificate**

The renewal of the doctoral certificate after 50 years or in extraordinary circumstances is a special form of honor. These circumstances arise from extensive academic or practical professional activities, which have proven worthy of special honor.

## **IV. Joint doctorate**

### **Section 19**

#### **Joint doctorate with another higher education institution**

(1) The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn can award the academic degree of Dr. med. or Dr. med. dent. with another higher education institution in a jointly conducted doctoral examination procedure. Contrary to sections 3 and 4, this procedure requires joint supervision by one responsible professor from each institution and successful participation in courses at both higher education institutions. In particular, the admission requirements for the doctorate and to open the doctoral examination procedure at both higher education institutions are to be fulfilled.

(2) For the purposes of a joint procedure, an agreement is to be made between the Faculty of Medicine and the other higher education institution, which must be approved by the doctoral board. The agreement governs a doctoral examination procedure led jointly by the responsible authorities at the other higher education institution and the doctoral board, in particular, the appointing of a joint examination board and a joint examination, assessment, and grading of the examination components in accordance with sections 4, 6, 9, and 10.

(3) The agreement can allow for exceptions to the provisions of these doctoral degree regulations, e.g. for the

- Qualification phase in accordance with section 4,
- Creation of the dissertation reviews in accordance with section 8,
- Access to the examination files in accordance with section 16,
- The form and duration of the oral examinations in accordance with section 9,
- Language of the certificate in accordance with section 14 para. 1.

In justified cases, the doctoral board can approve exceptions.

(4) The examination components are assessed both in accordance with these regulations and also in accordance with the law that applies to the other higher education institution involved.

(5) The duty to publish the doctoral thesis and the rights to it are based on the regulations of both higher education institutions.

(6) The certificate contains the awarding of a single academic degree, which may be undertaken in the form issued by the other higher education institution and in the form issued by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn. This certification takes place in a joint certificate. It is signed by the responsible representative of the other higher education institution and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn and bears the seals of both institutions.

## **V. Final provisions**

### **Section 20**

#### **Transitional provisions**

These doctoral degree regulations apply to doctoral examination procedures in which the application to open the doctoral examination procedure is submitted after these regulations come into force. Doctoral examination procedures for which the application to open the doctoral examination procedure is not yet submitted on the day that these doctoral degree regulations are announced continued to their completion in accordance with the doctoral degree regulations in the version of April 5, 1994. A declaration of invalidity of examination components, which were completed at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bonn to acquire the academic degree of Doctor medicinae (Dr. med.) or Doctor medicinae dentariae (Dr. med. dent), or a revocation of the aforementioned academic degrees are exclusively undertaken in accordance with these regulations following the presentation of the certificate.

**Section 21**  
**Entry into force**

These doctoral degree regulations enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Notices of the University of Bonn – Announcements.

N. Wernert  
The Dean  
of the Faculty of Medicine  
at the University of Bonn  
Universitätsprofessor Dr. Nicolas Wernert

Issued based on the ruling of the Faculty council in the Faculty of Medicine on May 24, 2017, and the urgent resolution of the Dean on July 4, 2017.

Bonn, July 13, 2017

M. Hoch  
The Rector  
at the University of Bonn  
Universitätsprofessor Dr. Michael Hoch

**Appendix**

The following programs are recognized as competitively assessed excellence programs:

Bernstein Group

Emmy Noether Program

ERC Starting Grant

Heisenberg Scholarship

Helmholtz Young Investigator Group

Max-Eder Research Group, Deutsche Krebshilfe

Max Planck Research Group

NRW Research Group

NRW program to support academics returning from abroad