



Prof. Dr. Vural KAVUNCU

MD, PhD

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for Kütahya, 24th, 25th and 26th Terms

Founding Rector, Kütahya Health Sciences University (2018-2023)

Specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | PhD in Physiology

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- Kütahya City Hospital – Yoncalı PMR Hospital
- KSBÜ Faculty of Medicine, Department of PMR

Over a professional career spanning more than thirty-five years, he has combined clinical practice, academic leadership, university foundership, parliamentary service and international representation. He brings senior decision-making experience in public policy, higher education governance and health systems.

As founding rector of Kütahya Health Sciences University he built the institution from the ground up. During three terms in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (24th, 25th and 26th Terms) he chaired the Committee on Health, Family, Labour and Social Affairs and the Prime Ministry Board for Combating Drugs. He conducted multilateral diplomacy and official contacts through the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Türkiye-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee and inter-parliamentary friendship groups.

He has more than 100 publications in international indexes, develops regional development projects on health tourism, thermal medicine and public-private partnership models, and combines state-level experience with academic depth.

PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Position	Institution	Term
Member of Parliament for Kütahya (24th, 25th, 26th Terms)	Grand National Assembly	2011-2018
Chair, Committee on Health, Family, Labour and Social Affairs	Grand National Assembly	2015-2017
Chair, Board for Combating Drugs of Türkiye	Prime Ministry	2015-2017
Deputy Chair, Committee of Inquiry into the Causes of Violence Against Women	Grand National Assembly	2015
Member, Committee of Inquiry into the Soma Mining Disaster	Grand National Assembly	2014
Member, Türkiye-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee	Grand National Assembly	2017-2018
Member, EU Harmonisation Committee	Grand National Assembly	2017-2018
Member, Turkish Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean	Grand National Assembly	2011-2015
Chair, Türkiye-Hungary Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group	Grand National Assembly	2011-2015

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION AND DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE

During his parliamentary service he represented Türkiye in multilateral platforms and bilateral official contacts, gaining direct field experience in parliamentary diplomacy, international negotiation and delegation management. He has also served as speaker and invited lecturer at more than 34

international scientific meetings across the United States, Europe and Asia.

Event / Contact	Country - City	Date
Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Plenary Session	Italy	October 2011
PAM Plenary Session (Rapporteur)	Türkiye - Ankara	May 2012
2nd World Turkish Congress (parliamentary participation)	Hungary	August 2012
Official visit to Hungary at the invitation of Speaker László Kövér, accompanying the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament	Hungary - Budapest	October 2012
Accompanying the Prime Minister on official overseas programme	Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary	February 2013
PAM — Conference on Strengthening Trade for Growth in the Mediterranean	Switzerland - Geneva	May 2013
PAM Plenary Session	France - Marseille	January 2014
Hosting the visit of the Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament	Türkiye - Ankara	May 2014
Opening of the Niger Eye Hospital (with İHH, TİKA, Islamic Development Bank and the Niger Ministry of Health)	Niger	September 2014
PAM Plenary Session	Catania - Sicily	December 2014
9th PAM Plenary Session	Monaco	February 2015
Seminar on the Social, Legal and Economic Protection of Children and Young People	France - Paris	October 2016
Official programme in honour of the delegation of the Indonesian House of Representatives	Türkiye - Ankara	October 2017
UN International Conference — Parliamentarians Against Drugs (Rapporteur)	Russia - Moscow	December 2017
77th Meeting of the Türkiye-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee	Belgium - Brussels	April 2018

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Position	Institution	Years
Founding Rector	Kütahya Health Sciences University	2018-2023
Head of Department	Afyon Kocatepe Univ. Faculty of Medicine, PMR	2002-2011
Head of Division of Internal Medical Sciences	Afyon Kocatepe Univ. Faculty of Medicine	2005-2007
Director of Vocational School	AKU Atatürk Vocational School of Health Services	2003-2007
Member of the Senate	Afyon Kocatepe University	2003-2007
Member of the Faculty Executive Board	Afyon Kocatepe Univ. Faculty of Medicine	2004-2007

Position	Institution	Years
Head of Department	Firat University Faculty of Medicine, PMR	1995–1998

Highlights of the Founding Rectorship (2018–2023)

- Design of the university's academic, administrative and physical structure from the ground up; establishment of faculties, institutes and vocational schools
- Implementation of an affiliation model based on integration between the city hospital and the university
- Construction of an institutional identity as a specialised health sciences university, together with its governance system

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Title	Institution	Field	Years
Professor	Kütahya Health Sciences University	PMR	2018–present
Professor	Afyon Kocatepe Univ. Faculty of Medicine	PMR	2004–2011
Associate Professor	Afyon Kocatepe Univ. Faculty of Medicine	PMR	2002–2004
Associate Professor	Firat University Faculty of Medicine	PMR	1998–2002
Assistant Professor	Firat University Faculty of Medicine	PMR	1995–1998
Research Assistant	Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine	PMR	1990–1994
General Practitioner	Elazığ SSK Hospital	—	1988–1990

EDUCATION

Degree	Institution	Field	Year
PhD	Firat University Faculty of Medicine	Physiology	2001
Medical Specialisation	Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1994
Doctor of Medicine	Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine	Medicine	1988

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RESEARCH AREAS AND SCIENTIFIC INDICATORS

Musculoskeletal disorders, osteoporosis and metabolic bone diseases, balneotherapy, rehabilitation systems, healthy ageing (longevity). ORCID: 0000-0003-2619-4977

He has more than 100 SCI/SSCI articles in international peer-reviewed journals and over 235 scientific publications in total in national and international indexed journals, together with the authorship or editorship of 6 books and book chapters. His work appears in leading journals of the field, including *Spine*, *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, *Clinical Rheumatology* and *Rheumatology International*.

100+ SCI / SSCI Articles	235+ Total Publications	21 H-index (Scopus)	1,343+ Citations (Scopus)
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CORE AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Strategic Leadership and Public Policy

National health policy development, management of legislative processes, chairmanship of senior boards, experience in committees of inquiry during periods of crisis (Soma, violence against women).

International Relations and Parliamentary Diplomacy

Representation in multilateral assemblies (PAM, Türkiye-EU JPC); bilateral official contacts at head-of-state and speaker level; chairmanship of a friendship group; international conference diplomacy.

Institution Building and Higher Education Governance

Establishing and scaling a university organisation from scratch; strategic management at rectorship level; academic governance, affiliation and accreditation processes.

Health Systems and Health Tourism Strategy

Design of thermal health and medical wellness ecosystems; public-private partnership (PPP) models; health tourism projects oriented towards regional development; structuring of international patient services.

Clinical and Scientific Expertise

Specialisation in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; doctorate in physiology; international experience in publication, peer review and thesis supervision.