

IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR PETRU DRAGAN

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Viorel Bucuras

Professor Petru Dragan, the creator of the school of modern urology in Timisoara, was born on the 2nd of February 1932 in Jimbolia, Timis County. He attended the elementary school in Jimbolia, continuing later his studies at the “Constantin Diaconovici Loga” College in Timisoara. In 1957 he graduated the Faculty of Medicine in Timisoara as the first student of his year and was awarded the republican scholarship.

Between 1957 and 1959 he practiced general medicine in Bocsa Romana. In 1959 he started his activity in the Clinic of Urology from Timisoara, having Professor Ioan Bulbuca as a professional and spiritual mentor. He passed through the stages of university promotion, becoming Professor of Urology in 1990.

He obtained his degree as a Doctor with a PhD Thesis called “The Intrarenal Circulation During Shock”, publishing numerous articles on this subject in famous international medicine journals.

He completed his education during a one-year Fulbright Scholarship at the Urological Department of the University of California in Los Angeles (1969 - 1970), where he practiced urology under the guidance of the Professors W. Goodwin and J. Kaufmann, his masters in urological surgery. During this scholarship he also passed the ECFMG Exam for the recognition of his Medicine Diploma in the U.S.A.

Between 1975 and 1976 Petru Dragan was Professor of Urology at the J.F. Kennedy University of Monrovia, Liberia, being also the personal urologist of William Tolbert Jr., the President of Liberia.

His didactic, scientific and medical activity was immense: he was a real leader of urological medicine school, educating more than 60 urologists, which are now practicing urology in Romania, as well as in the whole world.

Prof. Petru Dragan introduced in current practice more than 15 surgical interventions, which were considered at the time as pioneership in the uro-oncological practice (total cystectomy with ureterosigmoidostomy) or in prostate surgery (Millin adenomectomy). He significantly developed the surgical treatment of urinary lithiasis, encouraging at the same time the fundamental research in the etiopathogenesis of this endemic disease in the region of Banat (studying the metal and oligoelement composition of the urinary stones).

He gave support to the idea of introducing the renal transplant in Romania, being one of the pioneers in this field – he performed the first transplant in 1980 in Timisoara. He also performed the first cadaver kidney transplant in Romania in 1981.

Starting with 1977, with the material help of the Caritas Organization from Germany – coordinated then by Hans Weresch – Petru Dragan was the promoter of low endourology in Timisoara and in whole Romania.

He published over 200 articles and papers in Romanian and international medical journals, being the editor and the author of 15 monographs; he was also the Editor In Chief of the “Timisoara Medicala” Journal between 1990 and 1996.

Professor Dragan was member of numerous associations and medical societies: Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences, Romanian Association of Urology, Romanian Association of Endourology

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(founding member), European Association of Urology, International Society of Urology, Balcanic Medical Union, corresponding member of American Urological Association, British Association of Urological Surgeons.

He was a founding member of the Romanian National Council of the Prostate, established in 2004. As recognition for his professional prestige, he was named Member of Honor in the Senate of the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timisoara and of the South-East German Society of Urology.

He was an active member of the “Astra Romana” Association, fighting for keeping alive the culture

and the Romanian spirituality abroad. He had strong affective liaisons with the Romanians of the Serbian Banat and of the Republic of Moldova, being also a Member of Honor of the Society of the Urologists from Moldova.

Prof. Petru Dragan has achieved numerous distinctions and prizes, including the National Order “For Merits” (2000), the title “Citizen of Honor” of his hometown, Jimbolia (2000) and the title “Citizen of Honor” of Timisoara (2002).

Prof. Petru Dragan left this world as a great man, Romanian and doctor – these were his own words – after a long and undeserved suffering. May he rest in peace!