

TEN YEARS OF MICROSURGICAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN TIMISOARA

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More than three decades ago, major technical breakthroughs, like microsutures, microinstruments and powerful magnification tools, have paved the way towards the opening of the “microsurgical” era. This new technique would eventually revolutionize the surgical sciences from their foundation, by dictating new rules of tissue handling, establishing proficient treatments for otherwise incurable diseases and offering new experimental models as tools for revolutionary research.

The microsurgical training program in Timisoara was started in 1998 at the Pius Brnzeu Center for Laparoscopic Surgery and Microsurgery of the Victor Babes University of Medicine and Pharmacy. The idea of this program was possible due to an exceptional training platform, still unique at the national level and was fueled by an ever-increasing demand of young surgeons to learn microsurgery.

Initially, the training program included biannual basic microsurgery courses. By learning valuable lessons from our participants the program curriculum was further developed and now consists of 4 main pillars: (1) basic microsurgery, (2) advanced microsurgery (including video-assisted microsurgery), (3) flap dissection and (4) endoscopic-assisted flap

dissection seminars in living tissue. Additionally, the private seminar program, part of the same training curriculum, offers the participants the possibility to master and further improve their skills, by individualized tailoring the practical sessions, according to their specific needs. The participants can access within one program the microsurgical teaching, from basic to advanced techniques and from fundamental to complicated procedures such as free tissue transfer or microsurgical organ transplantation.

Started initially for plastic surgeons, the training program has further expanded its target specialties, providing nowadays dedicated microsurgical seminars in neurosurgery, ENT surgery or ophthalmology.

Throughout the last 10 years, Pius Brnzeu Center hosted more than 35 courses, which were attended by more than 500 participants from all surgical specialties, arriving from all around Europe.

As a result of the constant improvement of the course curriculum, this training platform became one of the most appreciated postgraduate programs in Europe and benefited from the appreciation of worldwide known authorities in the field, who became also invited professors of our university: Alexandros Beris, Wiliam C. Lineaweaver, Feng Zhang, Hanno Millesi, Vaughan Bowen, Bruno Battiston, Marco Innocenti.

In 2005, our program has been officially accredited by E.B.O.P.R.A.S (European Board for Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery) and today bears also the endorsement of EMRA (European Microsurgical Research Association) and of the Hellenic Society for Microsurgery, being also declared as the official training program of the Romanian Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery and of the Romanian Society for Surgery of the Hand.

Starting from the year 2007, in cooperation with the Serbian plastic surgery community, we have organized

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two courses (2007 – Apatin, 2008 – Vrsac) in Serbia, our training program becoming the foundation for the implementation of the microsurgical teaching in our neighbor country.

During the last 10 years, this training program

has evolved to a modern, complete and highly effective learning tool, for surgeons around the world and we are honored to be part of the university team that will lead it to further improvements in the years to come.