IN MEMORIAM PROF. DR. GEZA DEUTSCH
(02.11.1928 - 29.07.2010)

Vasile Rusu

In the evening of the 29th July 2010, in the peace of his family home, Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch passed away. He was a prominent teacher, distinguished colleague and complete researcher, full professor at the Biochemistry discipline and chief of this department during 1976 – 1997 at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Victor Babes” in Timisoara.

Born in 2 November 1928 in Oravita, Caras-Severin, he graduated „General Dragalina” highschool in Oravita in 1947 and then General Medicine Faculty at the Institute of Medicine Timisoara, in the year 1953, with merit diploma. In 1963 he obtains the scientific title of Doctor in medical sciences with the thesis entitled „Study upon the value of inuline renal purge coefficient for the measurement of glomerular filtration”. Scientific guide in this endeavor was prof. dr. H. Aubert.

In 1965 Geza Deutsch becomes specialized physician in functional explorations.

Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch was part of the rare but important persons that walked through life preserving youthful qualities: knowledge thirst, admiration for beauty and spiritual purity, capable of generating the most noble feelings.

Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch spent almost his entire life in school, both as student and as teacher. He learned by accumulating best knowledge from others and offering his best in return.

Like the fertile soils, he offered far more than he received. Outside school, he only attended the laboratory, remaining in the spirit of development, not letting himself be influenced. Maybe that is why, even as a grownup person, he maintained his pure childish heart.

The professional activity, after graduating Medicine, he started at the Medicine Institute in Timisoara, where he covered all professional hierarchy steps: preparatory 1951-1953, assistant 1953-1957,

Constantly preoccupied by professional improvement and receptive to all progress, Geza Deutsch graduated post-university classes in Nuclear Physics CUIR, IFA in Bucharest, and abroad in prestigious research institutes like: the use of radioisotopes in research, Research Section of the 2nd Medical Clinic in Budapest, in October-December 1960, using radioisotopes in research, Histology Discipline in Budapest 1968, the use of radioisotopes in renal research Stockholm-Goteborg, June 1971, DAAD scholarship March-July 1973 specializing in nuclear medicine and biochemical research by means of radioisotopes, at Nucleat Medicine Section in Gottingen Medical Clinic, research in biochemistry and physiology of the kidney at the Institute of Phisiology of the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, specialization in nuclear medicine and biochemistry at the Blood Center of Freiburg University, January 1979.

During his entire professional activity he obtained scientific titles as follows:
- Doctor in medical sciences in 1963
- Specialized physician in the functional exploration laboratory in 1965
- Elected member of the European Society for Clinical Research, Rotterdam (1971 until age limit, 1978)
- Member of the European Nuclear Medicine Society (nowadays EANM) since 1974
- Specialized physician in nuclear medicine 1992
- Full member of the Medical Sciences Academy 1994
- Full member of the European Arts and Sciences Academy (Academia Sientiarum et Atrium Europaea), Salzburg 1996.

The teaching activity performed and guided by Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch had as main target the best training in biochemistry of the future physician. The lecture was constantly updated and then was edited as two volumes (1983, 1987) edited at the Lithography of the Medicine Institute in Timisoara. A guide for practical activity was also edited (1981) emphasizing the importance of accommodating the medicine students with basic biochemical methods (25% of the practical work), assimilation of the most important investigations in clinical biochemistry (25% of the practical work) and performing eloquent experiments regarding the most important biochemical processes presented to the students (50%).

Since 1990 the teaching activity was carried on for three semesters, and three appropriate volumes were edited by prestigious editors. Also a guide for practical applications was edited in order to facilitate the teaching process.

During all these years, Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch taught the students of the 4th year General Medicine a facilitative material of Biotechnology, that consisted mainly in basic nuclear medicine knowledge.

Passionate teacher, the lectures held by Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch showed his love and respect for students, whom he guided with utmost competence.

As concerned with the medical activity, Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch was the one who introduced the use of radioactive isotopes for research and diagnostics in Timisoara.

In the fall of 1966, the then lecturer Dr. Geza Deutsch from the discipline of Clinical Biochemistry opened the Radioisotopes Laboratory of the Medicine Institute in Timisoara, that was concerned with experimental and clinical activities of highest quality in a top ranking field. The laboratory was specialized in an experimental division for physiological research on animals, biochemical analysis and investigations and a clinical division for functional explorations and diagnostics.

Since 1974, once the Regional Clinic Hospital no. 1 was opened, the diagnostics of the nuclear section was moved in the building of the new hospital, in an appropriate environment. The initial modest endowment was then improved, both by investment from the Health Ministry and by important contributions of the Medicine Institute. This is why, during a five year period, the unit was endowed with diagnosis equipment with in vivo counting for thyroid, renal and liver affections, and with linear scintigraphs, an equipment with gama camera assisted by computer. These devices allowed the assimilation of scintigraphy in the current thyroid, renal, liver, pancreatic, pulmonary and myocardic diagnosis.

The manual and automated counters for in vivo samples allowed the introduction of diagnosis based upon radioimmunonocpetitive methods (RIA) in clinical hormonology and clinical pharmacology, possibilities further completed by assimilation and wide application of fluorescent imunocompetitive and imunometric methods. The efforts of Prof. Deutsch were concentrated permanently on the updating of the laboratory with the latest technology, for a most competent diagnosis.

Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch was the chief of the Radioisotopes Laboratory of the Medicine Institute
in Timisoara during 1966 – 1974, and since 1974 to 2002, chief of the Nuclear Medicine Laboratory of the Regional Clinical Hospital no.1 Timisoara.

As a researcher, Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch was prolific and prestigious. His activity is summarized in 184 scientific papers (in which 13 monographies, lectures and handbooks, 75 in original research and 96 in applied research), published as author and co-author, in prestigious journals both inland and abroad. He attended numerous conferences and congresses with communications.

The scientific research contained both fundamental and applicative issues. Remarkable among these is the research concerning the exploration of the cellular energy mechanism, the renal function, of the renin-angiotensina system, glycosilated hemoglobins in diabetes and renal insufficiency, making evident of the hormone production in monocellular organisms (insuline, stearic hormones, T3, T4, renina), the influence of biphosphated hexoses in the control of functional biochemistry, investigation methods in nuclear cardiology, imunocompetitive and imunometric hormone, drugs and substances determinations etc.

Since 1990, Prof. Dr. Geza Deutsch was also a PhD. guiding teacher, helping 6 candidates (Pop A., Ciopor M., Trenia M., Biltiu D., Lungulescu A., Sirbu I.O.) obtain their title. From 1990 until retirement (1997) he was also the president of the Romanian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Timisoara branch. After retirement, he became consultant professor, leaving behind a valuable team, trained and excellently taught.

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy ,,Victor Babes” Timisoara loses a most valuable teacher by the passing away of a complete researcher and a genuine person, that contributed through hard work, talent, outstanding intellect and continuous effort to the prestige of the institution.

His memory will endure in the hearts of all the people that met, esteemed and appreciated him.

Have a peaceful everafter, Mr. Professor!