

IN MEMORIAM

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Doc. Crișan Mircioiu

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Prof. Dr. Doc. Crișan Mircioiu was a master of the Cluj Medical School, the head of the Surgical Clinic I (1973-1978) and a follower of professors Iacob Iacobovici, Alexandru Pop and Aurel Nana. He was also a man of wide culture, who actively participated in all outstanding events of Cluj.

After a short period of suffering endured with dignity, he passed away on 17 May 2009, in Cluj-Napoca. He had reached the patriarchal age of 95 years. Through his death, Cluj lost one of its most appreciated citizens of honor, the initiator of many medical and socio-cultural manifestations. It should be emphasized that as early as the '90s he had become a living legend of the city. Possessing a special vital energy that emanated from the fullness of his being, having a particular capacity to communicate effectively with the people around him regardless of their ethnic origin, their social and confessional status, the Professor established a warm human interrelationship that gave his interlocutors a sense of comfort and optimism.

Crișan Mircioiu was born on 20 July 1913, in Câmpina, Prahova County. He attended the primary school in Moreni (1919-1923), high school in Câmpina (1923-1930) and he passed his baccalaureate in June 1930, in Ploiești. Although it would have been easy for him to go to the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest and thus remain in the area where he had been educated, he chose Cluj in order to become a doctor. This is explained by the outstanding development of the Romanian Medical School in Cluj, founded in 1919. It was the time when the deans of the Faculty of Medicine were personalities such as the histologist Ioan Drăgoiu, the anatomist, writer and musician Victor Papilian, the pharmacologist Gheorghe Martinescu and the ophthalmologist Dumitru Michail, who were not only his professors, but also examples of work, humaneness and devotion. He also had the privilege to study surgery with Iacob Iacobovici, internal medicine with Iuliu Hațieganu, radiology with Dimitrie Negru, balneology with Marius Sturza, psychiatry with Constantin Urechea, neurology with Ion Minea, hygiene with Iuliu Moldovan, physiology with Ioan Nițescu, history of medicine with Valeriu Bologa, etc. These served him as models in the development of his medical career and in the building of his human qualities. At the end of his medical studies, in 1936, he was awarded *Magna cum Laude* for the remarkable value of his thesis, for which he received the title of Doctor in Medicine and Surgery.

He started his teaching career in 1937, when he became a budget teaching assistant at the Department of Anatomy, run by Victor Papilian. In parallel, he was also a teaching assistant at the Medical Clinic I, under Iuliu Hațieganu's direction, then he became a voluntary teaching assistant at the Clinic of Gynecology, whose head was Cristea Grigoriu. In 1937, he was transferred as a budget teaching assistant to the Department of Pathological Anatomy, run by Titu Vasiliu.

Wishing to become a surgeon, Crișan Mircioiu worked from 1940 to 1946 as a teaching assistant at the Surgical Clinic I, whose director was Alexandru Pop. It should be mentioned that during 1940-1945 the entire Faculty of Medicine – as well as the Faculties of Law and Letters of the Cluj University – took refuge in Sibiu. During those years (until 1945), Crișan Mircioiu participated in World War II. After he returned to Cluj, he worked as an Instructor at the same Clinic for three years (1946-1949). In 1949, he obtained the title of specialist and was promoted to Assistant Professor, working under Aurel Nana's direction. For political reasons, in 1952 Crișan Mircioiu was demoted to Instructor. It was a severe sanction, given the fact that the person who signed the decision was one of his

mentors, Al. Pop, who appreciated him for his surgical and teaching skills. Moreover, Mircioiu was transferred to the Surgical Clinic III. This was undergoing a phase of organization and the homonymous discipline had been introduced just a year before. In the period over which he worked in this Clinic (1952–1954), he contributed not only to the teaching and scientific activity, but also to the moving of the clinic from its location of Str. Câmpeni 4 (the former Emergency Hospital from the Ambulance Service Headquarters) to the building of Str. Iașilor no. 16 (the old wing). In 1954 he was promoted for the second time to Assistant Professor at the Surgical Clinic I. In 1960 he became a Consultant Surgeon and in 1964, he was promoted to Associate Professor in the same clinic. In 1970, at the age of 53, he had the great pleasure to receive the title of Professor. He ran the Clinic of Surgery I from 1973 to 1978, when he was retired for age. Between 1977 and 1978 he was a Professor and head of department. Then, he was a Consultant Professor. Starting with 1977, he directed PhD theses (for almost three decades).

One of the main coordinates of his teaching activity was the practical training of students and doctors in medical emergencies, in acute abdomen in particular. This explains Prof. Mircioiu's nickname given by some of his disciples: „Mr. Acute Abdomen”.

The fact that in 1956 he was one of the founders of the students' scientific circles is significant. In addition to teaching, he supported the widening of the students' cultural horizon. For this purpose, he organized at the Surgical Clinic I music recitals and meetings with poets, writers, actors, plastic artists, etc.

He collaborated in numerous didactic works: “Curs de chirurgie generală”, Aurel Nana ed. (1950-1951); the surgical handbook “Chirurgie”, Nicolae Hortolomei and Ion Țurai eds. (1965-1958); “Tratat de patologie chirurgicală”, Theodor Burghel ed. (1975); “Patologie chirurgicală”, Nicu George Ionescu ed. (1983 and 1985) and “Tratat de patologie chirurgicală”, Eugen Proca ed. (1986). Prof. Mircioiu wrote the monograph “Cancerul glandei mamare” (1988). He also co-authored the volumes “Progrese în chirurgie”, Th. Burghel ed. (1971) and “Profilaxia”, Octavian Fodor ed.

For the pedagogical training of the teaching staff, he collaborated in the editing of some extensive medical-cultural and cultural-scientific works: “Medicina contemporană” (1980), “Clasic și modern în învățământul superior” (1981), “Medicină și societate” (1982), “Pedagogie universitară, tradiție și modernitate. Experiențe și exigențe” (1987) and “Interdisciplinaritate și dialog în științele medicale și medico-sociale” (1988). These books were edited by Constantin Gh. Marinescu. Rene Duda was the assistant editor of the last volume.

Crișan Mircioiu's scientific work materialized in more than 950 papers and presentations, of which more than 200 were published. The papers presented various aspects of surgical disorders - thyroid, breast, esophageal, gastric- (proposing an original total gastrectomy technique) -, intestinal, hepatic, biliary, etc. He also approached: emergency medicine, cancer disease, vascular pathology and war surgery. A particular place among his areas of interest was occupied by the aspects of medical deontology. He presented scientific papers in international meetings in: Austria, Bulgaria, Switzerland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, USA, Turkey and USSR.

Another outstanding contribution of Prof. Mircioiu was in the history of medicine. In this area, the elaboration of the following monographs should be mentioned: “Chirurgia secolului XX” (in collaboration with A. Nana) (1972), “Albert Schweitzer” (1983), “Theodor Billroth, viața și opera” (2002), “Școala Clujeană de Chirurgie (1919-2002)” (2002). Prof. Mircioiu was also one of the editors of the books “Omăgiu Iuliu Hațieganu” (1985) and “Omăgiu Victor Papilian” (1988). We mention the memories of some well known professors in the history of the Faculty of Medicine of Cluj. These were included in the volumes entitled “Figuri reprezentative ale Medicinii și Farmaciei Clujene” (1980-

1988). In addition, he supervised the publication of the volumes “Cu steagul înfășurat”, by V. Papilian (1994) and “La a douăzecea aniversare a Universității Daciei Superioare”, by Onisifor Ghibu (2001).

Having a wide culture, a special work capacity and a constant wish to spread culture among the population, Crișan Mircioiu was a founding member of the Cultural-Scientific University of Cluj, which he directed for more than three decades (1976-2009). After 1990, he was an active member of the ASTRA Association.

He was a member of various Romanian scientific associations: the Romanian Union of Medical Sciences and the Association of Scientists – being the vice-president of the Transylvanian Branch. He was a member emeritus of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a member of honor of the Society of Hepato-Bilio-Pancreatic Surgery of Cluj-Napoca, a member of honor of the Society of Surgery of Timișoara, a founding member and a member of honor of the Romanian College of Physicians, a founding member and a member of honor of the Society of Physician Writers and Publicists of Cluj-Napoca, etc. Starting with 1994, he was the President of the Cluj branch of the Romanian Society of Surgery. At international level, he was a member of: the Balkan Medical Union, the International Society of Surgery, the European Society of Experimental Surgery and the Austrian Society of General Medicine. He was one of the founding members of the International Society of Digestive Surgery.

He was a member of the editorial boards of the journals “Clujul Medical”, “Chirurgia” and “Palestrica Mileniului III”.

As a culmination of his achievements, he was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the Universities of Craiova, Constanța, Oradea and Târgu Mureș.

He was awarded the Diploma of Excellence from the part of the Cluj Prefecture and County Council for his participation in World War II. He also received the “War Veteran Medal” (1941-1945), the Order of the “Romanian Star” class V with swords and ribbon for military bravery, the Order of the “Romanian Crown”, Knight grade and the “Queen Maria” Cross grade II, for merit on the Eastern front (1941-1944).

After 1990, he was awarded the title of citizen of honor of Cluj-Napoca and citizen of honor of Câmpina and Săliște.

Another aspect of his many sided activity was focused on the promotion and the development of physical education and sport in higher education. As a recognition of his contribution in this field, he was awarded the Diploma of Honor of the “Universitatea” Cluj Sports Club. Several months before he passed away, he started to support Prof. Dr. Traian Bocu’s initiative of founding a national society for physical education and sport.

On the occasion of his 95th anniversary, the Mayor’s Office of Cluj-Napoca celebrated Prof. Dr. Doc. Crișan Mircioiu, in July 2008. In September 2008, “Iuliu Hațieganu” UMPH and the Academy of Medical Sciences celebrated him by a festivity of the “Medicine, Art, Culture” cycle, under the direction of Prof. Dr. Nicolae Hâncu.

Crișan Mircioiu will remain in the memory of those who met him as an outstanding Professor, an experienced surgeon, a doctor of wide culture, a deeply human person, who was elected a citizen of honor of Cluj and the great Rector of the Cultural-Scientific University of Cluj.