

Constantin Chira (1939–2016)



Recently, the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology lost one of his most active members, Professor Dr. Constantin Chira, for many years acting secretary of this society.

He was born in 1939 and graduated from the Medical School of Bucharest in 1963, undertaking different positions as physician in several hospitals of the Romanian capital city. In 1968 he started an internship in Fundeni Hospital Bucharest, at that time the first gastroenterology center of this country. Here he trained to become one of the first gastroenterologists in Romania.

In 1971 he moved to the Gerota Hospital of the same city to establish the Unit of Endoscopy and soon became the Head of the department. He was a pioneer of many techniques of interventional endoscopy and one of the first ECRP performers in East Europe. He had an early interest in diagnosis and treatment of *H. pylori* infection and in the study of gastroesophageal reflux, initially with the Heidelberg capsule. His main research fields were GERD, gastritis, portal hypertension.

Due to his personal charm and ability to manage interpersonal issues and public affairs, he served for a long time (1992–2000) as the general secretary of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and respectively, of the Romanian Society of Digestive Endoscopy. In the same period he was the organizer,

alongside Professor Alexandru Oproiu, of several national congresses of gastroenterology. He also organized workshops and meetings on digestive endoscopy and internal medicine. He was respected by all his colleagues.

After his partial retirement, he became very much interested in the history of medicine and produced several books. He had a large collection of items from the history of medicine, which he used in his publications. The most important one is the monograph *Prof. Dr. Dimitrie Gerota - a Man for all Eternity* about the founder of his hospital in Bucharest. This was the result of a very passionate documentation, has many illustrations and was printed in excellent conditions. The author offered this book to the participants of the National Congress of Gastroenterology in Cluj-Napoca, June 2016, as a token of his friendship. Nobody could imagine then, that this was his parting souvenir.

Dr. Chira left us after the progressive deterioration of his heart disease during this winter, saddening all the members of our medical society by his discrete and unexpected departure. He is survived by his beloved wife Mariana and by two children.

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