

Radu Străin (1935-2015)



We are saddened to announce the recent passing away of one of the most important members of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Professor Radu Străin from Timisoara. Professor Străin was born on 24 February 1935 in Arad and followed his education in other cities of Western Romania, Lugoj and Timisoara.

He began his medical studies in Timisoara in 1952 and graduated in 1958 with excellent results. He worked as a medical doctor, first as an intern in Timisoara University Hospital and later in the hospitals of Hunedoara and Lugoj.

He embarked then on an academic career after succeeding in an exam for the post of Assistant Professor at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timișoara. In this position he became one of the most outstanding gastroenterologists in Western Romania and an active leader in the field of Romanian hepatology. He succeeded Professor Leon Berinde as the Head of the Gastroenterology Department in Timisoara.

For political reasons, he could obtain higher university degrees only after the fall of communism, rapidly becoming an Associate Professor in 1990 and a full Professor in 1992, as recognition of his merit.

Considering that endocrinology was important for gastroenterology, Professor Străin obtained a second specialization in endocrinology in Bucharest.

He was one of the first gastroenterologists in Romania and founded the Department of Gastroenterology in Timisoara, becoming Head of the department as well as Chairman. He undertook also a specialization in liver transplantation in Dallas, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia.

He was the author of more than 500 papers in internal medicine and gastroenterology and published no less than 14 books. He was an invited speaker to many meetings in Romania and abroad and became an important personality representing Romanian gastroenterology worldwide. He served also as Vice-President of the Romanian Association for the Study of the Liver. As a hepatologist he was one of the first students of HCV in this country and demonstrated the prevalence of genotype 1b in this area. He also published one of the first monographs on HBV.

He founded the Society of Gastroenterology Banat-Crisana and organized many scientific meetings, including a National Congress of Gastroenterology.

He trained a large group of gastroenterologists from several generations, who honour his memory. He was a very polite, friendly and reliable person and established numerous relationships with hepatologists from other countries, contributing to the development of the international cooperation of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. The longtime friends of Professor Străin, Professors Daniel Dhumeaux from Paris and Manuela Neuman from Toronto, characterized him as an outstanding and gentle personality.

The cause of his death was heart disease.

Professor Radu Străin is survived by his devastated family, including his son Mihnea, an outstanding gastroenterologist working in Germany.

May he rest in peace!

Dumitru Dumitrascu
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