

## Alexandru Oproiu (1930-2020)



Professor Alexandru Oproiu was born on the 1st of December 1930, in Glăvile-Piteșteana commune, Vâlcea county. He graduated from Spiru Haret High School in Bucharest and from the Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest in 1956.

He began his professional career studying the Basics of Fundamental Medical Sciences as an instructor at the Department of Physiology and then as Assistant Professor at the Department of Medical Semiology and Cardiology, in the Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest

He was one of the disciples and the successor of the renowned Professor Tiberiu Sparchez, being part of the Grivita Clinical Hospital team, which was transferred to the Fundeni Hospital Bucharest at the time of the relocation of the Clinic and the Center of Gastroenterology. Here he led the Clinic and the Center of Gastroenterology for several decades, being the founder of the concept of Integrated Endoscopy and Pathological Anatomy and the one who set up the Integrated Department of Digestive Oncology within the Center of Gastroenterology.

Professor Oproiu completed the names of the Center of Gastroenterology and of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology by adding "Hepatology", in order to express more consistently the indissoluble relationship between the pathology of the digestive system's organs. Together with Prof. CC Iliescu, Stefan Berceanu and others, he initiated he

initiated the detachment of the specialties of Gastroenterology, Cardiology and Hematology from Internal Medicine. He is one of the founders of Digestive Endoscopy in Romania and a promoter of Interventional Endoscopy. He was Head of the Methodological Center of Digestive Endoscopy for decades and has trained multiple generations of endoscopists.

At the School of Gastroenterology and Digestive Endoscopy from Fundeni Hospital, several generations of doctors were trained under his guidance. Over time, these doctors became Heads of departments, lecturers and Professors. They are now promoters and coordinators of other generations of gastroenterologists.

He was the Director of the Fundeni Clinical Institute, Bucharest for 24 years and Secretary of State in the Ministry of Health in two mandates.

He was the Honorary President of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, a society of which he was the first secretary. He was also a member of the American Society of Gastroenterology, the French Society of Gastroenterology, the French Society of Digestive Endoscopy and the Italian Society of Digestive Endoscopy.

Having a strong faith in God, he was a member of the highest forums of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

He passed away after a long suffering with only 2 weeks before reaching the age of 90, after an impressive career in medicine, medical research and education of over 60 years.

Those who knew him will always remember his involvement in the meticulous analysis of the digestive pathology, starting from the basics of understanding the molecular and cellular mechanisms, from the clinical to the endoscopic semiology. He had extraordinary didactic skills and a remarkable capability to systematize his presentations and lectures based on the latest data, many times with a glimpse in the future. We shall all remember his humor and the way he used to animate his speeches.

We will never forget him as a school founder, a visionary and a spiritual father.

May he rest in peace.

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