

Professor Oliviu Pascu

Professor Oliviu Pascu was born in 1939 in Codlea, Braşov county. In 1957 he graduated the "Gheorghe Lazăr" high school in Sibiu, and in 1963 the Faculty of General Medicine of the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj. After graduation he worked as an intern at the Third Medical Clinic in Cluj, where his skills and dedication were noticed by his supervisor, Professor Octavian Fodor, who would later offer him the opportunity to become his collaborator. Thus, in 1968, after completing his term as district doctor in Bistriţa Bârgăului, he started his activity at the Third Medical Clinic.

In the following years, Oliviu Pascu successfully pursued both an academic career - assistant lecturer (1971), lecturer (1982), associate professor (1990), professor (1991) and (1994); and a medical professional career - internal medicine consultant (1971), internal medicine senior consultant (1981), gastroenterology consultant (1991), gastroenterology senior consultant (1993). He was one of the pioneers of digestive endoscopy, being the first to perform polypectomies and hemostatic procedures in Romania. In 1994 he became the director of the Third Medical Clinic and in the following years he strived for its modernization, which finally led to the foundation of the first Regional Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Romania.

His PhD thesis, *The physiopathology and clinics of duodenal dyskinesia* (1974) was a continuation of Professor Iuliu Haţieganu's research regarding duodenal stasis, which was described decades earlier based only on clinical and radiological signs. His contribution offered a physiopathological insight on the disease in the wider spectrum of functional digestive pathology.

Professor Pascu published over 400 research papers in the most prestigious national and international journals such as *Endoscopy*, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* (Editorial), *Surgical Endoscopy*, *Medizinische Klinik*, *Lancet*, *European Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology*. He was the author of the first monograph on *Digestive Endoscopy in Romania* (*Indrumător practic de endoscopie digestivă superioară* - 1982) and of the first Romanian textbook of *Gastroenterology* (*Tratat de Gastroenterologie clinică* - 1996-1997). He then published *Essentials in Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (2003) and eight editions of *Gastroenterology – Hepatology – the principles of clinical practice* (2004-2013). He elaborated or collaborated to over 46 textbooks in the fields of gastroenterology and digestive endoscopy, contributing thereby to the education and training of the majority of the Romanian gastroenterologists and endoscopists.

Professor Pascu participated in numerous international scientific meetings and was the member of various professional and scientific organizations: member and vice-president of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology (2001-2004), member and president of the Romanian Society of Digestive Endoscopy (2001-2009), member of the Royal Society



of Medicine, fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Great Britain, honorary member of the Italian Society of Gastroenterology, member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences, member of the Polish Medical Academy, founding member of the Romanian Society of Hepato-Bilio-Pancreatic Surgery, founding member of the Romanian Society of Ultrasonography in Medicine and Biology. In his later years he was the president of the Gastroenterology Committee in the Ministry of Health (2005-2015).

In 1990, Professor Pascu became Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and in 1992, Rector of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, being reelected in 1996. As dean and rector, he contributed to the transformation of the Medico-Pharmaceutical Institute into the modern Iuliu Haţieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy. He initiated and conducted a profound curricular reformation by eliminating obsolete disciplines such as Political Education and substantially downsizing others such as Anatomy, Histology, and Hygiene. New specializations, essential in the modern medical practice, were introduced: Oncology, Medical Biochemistry, Clinical Pharmacology, Nephrology, Anesthesiology, Hematology, Diabetes and Nutrition, Medical Informatics and others. The Faculty of Pediatrics was dissolved and the study of Pediatrics was introduced into the main curriculum. He introduced the current modular teaching organization.

For his exceptional activity he was awarded prestigious prizes and titles, some the most noteworthy being the Gh. Marinescu prize of the Romanian Academy, the Iuliu Haţieganu prize of the Romanian Academy, The Albert Schweizer Medal of the Polish Medical Academy and the National Order of Faithful Service in the rank of Commander.

University Senate President's Eulogy for Professor Oliviu Pascu

Grieving Family and Assembly of Mourners,

It is very difficult to speak in the past about someone who had and has still such a great presence in this School... Professor Oliviu Pascu was the first Dean of the Faculty of Medicine after the Revolution. We owe him not only the name our School bears today, but also the forging of its reputation. Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy has risen to the pinnacle of professional achievement due to the fact that, at some point in history as Rector, a man with vision, dedication and knowledge gathered round him people who truly understood the mission of our School and started to reshape it. This Man was Professor Oliviu Pascu. Wherever our eyes turn within this School, we can see the hand of Rector Oliviu Pascu's drafting the future with fine paintbrushes. He did it in times marked by uncertainty and a quest for identity, understanding that tradition and contemporaneous trends should find a blissful blend. From the curriculum reform to the first University Chart, adapted to the requisites of European medical education at the time, thus giving a new chance to the next generations of physicians, dentists and pharmacists, to a great number of new buildings that represent our school; from the creation of a modern library to the rebirth of urology, heart surgery, biochemistry, or the foundation of the Institute of Gastroenterology, to promoting the values of our school abroad and overseas by the international relations he established and also due to our graduates practicing medicine all over the world..., everything that bears the mark of an enlightened founder's vision. Indeed, the Medical School in the Romanian language was founded 99 years ago, but it is also true that its reshaping took place between 1992-2000, when Professor Pascu was Rector.

I wish that today we would not consider that we are here to accompany Rector Pascu on his last journey, but rather that this year we will have finished only the first 26 years of the journey he initiated towards the future. The road has been paved with sacrifice, dedication, kindness, but also professionalism and determination. In everything

he did, his mind was focused on the improvement of the training conditions for the new generations of physicians, pharmacists and dentists, with the ultimate goal to make it better for patients here and everywhere.

"My entire career was linked to the love for the profession and patients... I sought to the best of my abilities and knowledge to alleviate their pain, cure their diseases as much as I could and be close to them", Professor Pascu stated last year, when he had decided it was time to rest after 53 years of continuous professional activity in the same clinic. It is a creed that demonstrates that throughout his entire career he carried forward the motto of our School, defined by its first Dean, Iuliu Hatieganu: "Medicine means science and conscience, warmed by the love for people".

Today, after more than five decades of work, Rector Pascu has ceased to look forward and instead he watches us from somewhere above. All of us, after lifting our heads now bent in mourning and sorrow, should uphold the duty to follow the path set by Professor Pascu, and in everything we do we must create new landmarks for the present and the future along this established route.

Professor Pascu has assembled us here for the last time, perhaps as a twist of fate today, when the international course of digestive endoscopy takes place, a domain he initiated and to which he dedicated a good part of his life, so that we may remember a model of modesty and devotion, humanity and professionalism that he was to us throughout his life. He gathered us here today so that we should never forget that what we build today will craft the tomorrow, and that we are bound to offer goodness not just by commending it, but mainly by actually doing it. It is important to give not from what you have, but especially from what you are...

Thank you, Professor Pascu, for the way you gave yourself to this School, which will hold you in its memory as one of its greatest builders. Rest in peace, our honored Rector...

Professor Ioan Stefan Florian