

## Professor George Nicu Ionescu (1928-2019)



One of the last senior peers of Romanian surgery, Professor George Nicu Ionescu, left us at a venerable age. He was one of the leaders of medicine in Cluj.

He was head of the Surgical Clinic 1 (1978-1993), succeeding in a line of prominent Romanian surgeons who led this clinic in the past, Professor Aurel Nana and Professor Crisan Mircioiu.

He was Rector of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (1986-1990), one of the most prestigious medical schools in the country.

He also had a decisive contribution to the development of the Faculty of Medicine in Oradea.

As a member of the Romanian Society of Surgery, Professor George Ionescu had a rich activity, he participated in congresses, conferences, workshops, with presentations from a hospital with a large number and a wide range of operations.

He was an authority in abdominal surgery, due to the results obtained and the modern concepts he promoted.

He published numerous articles in special journals ("Chirurgia" in the first place) and authored several reference monographs: Colon surgery (1984), Upper digestive hemorrhage (1988), Surgery of the spleen (1991). These publications were the results of the joint efforts of his team, which represented with honor the first surgical clinic of the eminent medical school of Cluj.

Due to his outstanding professional achievement he was elected honorary member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor George Ionescu was mentor for many generations of surgeons who still carry on the tradition of the Cluj surgery school. He left his mark on their formation by the knowledge he shared and also by being a model as a man and surgeon.

In his private life he had a passion for sports and hunting, music and fine arts, travel and friendly gatherings.

Professor George Ionescu was a man of charm, with a professional authority immediately sensed by everyone, warm hearted and profoundly humane, qualities that left a lasting impression. He was an exquisite professional, but especially kind, always smiling, always finding the right words of comfort, encouragement or appreciation, particularly for the young ones.

This is how I knew him and how I shall bear him in my memory. I wish there were more mentors like him in Romanian surgery, who would teach, train and inspire.

Professor George Ionescu's image will linger forever in our souls, in the hearts of those who knew him; for the younger generations of surgeons he will remain a model to follow on the path of one of the hardest professions!

On behalf of the Academy of Medical Sciences, I would like to bring a last and humble homage to the late Professor George Ionescu, one of the greatest Romanian surgeons and a distinguished member of this institution.

May God rest him in peace!  
Condolences to the mourning family!

**Professor Irinel Popescu**  
**Center of General Surgery and Liver**  
**Transplantation of Fundeni**  
**President of the Academy of Medical Sciences**