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## SCHOOL OF NEUROLOGY IN THE MEDICINE OF 1857-2003

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The recent volume, which has a rich documentary illustration, is part of the author's known concerns for the history of medicine. Based on an extensive bibliography, it also benefits from many direct testimonies, valid arguments of contemporary history.

An expressive "Foreword" legitimates the author-work relationship: "The history of a medical school and specialty can be best written by someone who lived for long periods of time, was part of various units of that specialty over time and took part in many events on which he or she contemplated in his or her conscience and to which could give true value" (Prof. Dr. Sanda Maria Deme).

The main body of the volume refers to neurology education in the university center of Cluj. The volume also contains, naturally, a brief profile of medical institutions, hospitals and clinics. From modest beginnings with a section of "mental illness" added in 1835 to "Karolina" State Hospital, it had evolved, until 1889, to a "Department of Neuro-mental diseases". It was led by a renowned professor, Carol Lechner, and was situated in improvised transitional locations. By building modern clinics (1900-1903), Cluj had one of the most advanced neuropsychiatric hospital facilities in Europe (30 neurology beds and 220 psychiatric beds, a classroom, a sports hall and occupational therapy and physiotherapy keeping rooms).

With the establishment of the Romanian University, after the Union, the two specialties were autonomous. The Neurology Clinic was lead in 1920 by Professor Ion Minea, student and close associate of the great Gheorghe Marinescu. He continued and developed the research started with his master regarding multiple sclerosis, tabes, nervous degeneration and regeneration, heredity in neurological diseases, basal nuclei pathology, neuro-endocrine interrelations etc. He was an excellent clinician and an innovator. He made important contributions to the viral origin of multiple sclerosis. He proposed a simple and highly sensitive colloidal method for diagnosis of syphilis. His scientific research extended methodically from clinical observation of the morphopathologic substrate and laboratory experiments. Equipped with managerial skills, he occupied some important academic leadership positions as provost, dean and deputy dean.

After his death (in refuge in Sibiu, 1942), reconstruction was imposed, according to tradition, of a unique Neuropsychiatry clinic, led by the prestigious

psychiatrist, Professor Constantin I. Urechia, native from Cluj. He had enjoyed a thorough psycho-neurological training in French schools. He also had a rich scientific activity, recognized internationally, and was author of a scholarly Treatise of Neurology. After his call to the chair of Bucharest in 1945, was supplanted by Michael Kernbach (based forensic doctor, 1945-1946) and Salvator Cupcea (hygienist by training, 1947-1948).

In 1948, the Department of Neurology regained independence through education reform under the leadership of young and energetic lecturer Dezideriu Duma, promoted professor in 1955, active until 1971. In this long period, he was able to form a valuable collective from which some collaborators left for Bucharest (Gh Călcaianu) and Tg. Mureș (Liviu Popovici, Berdj Asgian), becoming prestigious professors.

Modernization of clinical investigations and interdisciplinary collaborations, the stimulating effect of the new set PhD process and high addressability of patients, favored the raising of healthcare and research levels. Dominant themes were vasculocerebral accidents, neurovirus diseases, neuroses, progressive muscular dystrophies, polyneuritis, epilepsy, effects of industrial pollutants, brain tumors, etc. Numerous publications, organization of scientific meetings and participation in international congresses are proof to the high level of research. The chair team published a well-sought neurology course in 7 editions. Prof. Duma was very active in IMF leadership as Director of Studies, Dean (successively, in all three faculties) and study pro-rector.

The next Head of Department was Professor Emil Câmpeanu until 1990. During his training he received numerous internships and exchanges at home and abroad (WHO fellowship in Paris, Moscow). He introduced new methods of clinical investigation (gamma-encephalography, electromyography, microscopy). Research topics focused on strokes (particularly in the pathogenesis and therapy of hemorrhage and infarction), eredo-degenerative diseases, neurovirus disease, multiple sclerosis, polyneuritis etc. He had a rich involvement in specialized congresses in important centers (Paris, Prague, Barcelona) and professional visits in 7 European countries. He worked on university textbooks locally and nationally and coordinated a Treaty of Clinical Neurology in three volumes. He was secretary of the Romanian Academy's

Cluj branch for many years.

Professor Șerban Mircea led the medical discipline during 1990-1992. He had earlier been, as a lecturer, Chief of Neurology Rehabilitation Hospital since its foundation in 1978. He had a solid training as an anatomist and led the clinic pathology laboratory for many years. His scientific contributions have focused on the recovery of neurological patients and their professional reintegration, risk and sanogenetic factors without neglecting encephalitis (including in an experimental modeling), hyperkinesia, spino-cerebellar degeneration, epilepsy, etc.

The author of the book, Prof. Ștefania Kory Calomfirescu, led the Neurological Clinic between 1992-2003. She continued a sustained research (with accredited innovations), completed by numerous monographs: *Language disorders in stroke*, *Risk factors in stroke*, *Neurological and psychiatric complications in chronic alcoholism*, *Neurological complications in diabetes and cancer*, *Aphasia in strokes*, *Epilepsy*, *Cerebral circulation – normal and pathological aspects* etc. She wrote several didactic courses and textbooks.

She had a significant interest in medical history, too, drafting the biography of several important personalities, starting with Gheorghe Marinescu. She organized scientific symposia regularly, always oriented on topical themes. She was part of several international scientific forums and had exchanges in six Western countries. She participated in the establishment of education of Neurology at the Medical Faculty in Oradea and Arad. In 1996 she founded the journal “Acta Neurologica Transilvaniae”, to which she contributed with a large number of articles.

There are other past neurologists from Cluj presented in the book, such as Dr. Adalbert Lakatos, Virgil Mares, George Ursan, Dan Argintaru and O. Paul, the first professor of pediatric neurology.

The author’s belletristic approach gives the text fluidity and accessibility. This faithful reconstitution, taken as a whole, stands as a significant contribution to the history of medicine in Cluj, potential reference for other areas, too.

**Dumitru Dumitrașcu**