

Professor Emeritus Doctor Sandu Valeriu Bologna

Renowned oncological surgeon, an outstanding personality of Cluj Medical School

25 August 1928 – 7 December 2023



Professor Sandu Valeriu Bologna departed this life, far away from his country, on the 7th of December 2023. He was one of the emblematic personalities of the Medical School of Cluj and of oncological surgery in Romania. We can certainly consider him an emblem of the Faculty of Medicine of the “Iuliu Hatieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Cluj due to his exceptional professional achievements, at the same time “burdened” by his illustrious name that carried on the tradition of the Transylvanian medical education.

Professor Sandu Bologna was trained at the school of great surgeons and accomplished teachers of the Cluj Medical School, a formation that left its mark on his entire evolution and exceptional professional development. He climbed, even though not without obstacles, all the steps of the University hierarchy, reaching the rank of Professor

and Head of the clinic in the 1990s. In this capacity, he led the University Clinics Surgery IV and later, Surgery V, distinguishing himself in each of them through professionalism, decision-making power, and generosity. After December 1989, Professor Sandu Bologna worked and led the “Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță” Oncology Institute, to which he was inseparably linked throughout his life, as a surgeon and University lecturer.

A school creator, generous spirit, with a refined education, from January 1990 until his retirement, Professor Sandu Bologna was elected as member of the Faculty of Medicine Council, being for many years a truly active presence, characterized by a positive and balanced attitude during a challenging period in the evolution of our University. Thus, the Faculty of Medicine and the University itself had the chance to have him close as a valuable person whose advice was always listened to attentively. At this stage, feeling the need for such a Chair, Professor Sandu Bologna proposed the establishment and founded the Discipline of Oncological Surgery and Surgical Semiology, initiating didactic activity with third and fourth-year medical students at the Faculty of Medicine and, no less importantly, efficiently structuring the activity with residents in surgical and oncological specialties at the Oncology Institute.

If we were to characterize Professor Sandu Bologna in a few words, the phrase “a person with a big heart and a smile on his face” would probably suit him best. His guidance and advice were always sought after by the younger generation, from students to colleagues at the beginning of their careers.

As a young Dean, I repeatedly followed his wise advice, and both I and our team at the Faculty of Medicine tried to extract truths from what he told us about the great figures, those from whom he had learned both medicine and humanity. He was one of the memorable figures of the Cluj Medical School who, even though he didn’t leave many written works, established a tradition of surgical excellence in each of the clinics where he worked, leaving deep impressions in the memories of colleagues and, no less, in the students whom he captivated with his teaching charm and charisma.

The Faculty of Medicine and the “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy owe him a great deal as a wise and beloved teacher, as a person who had a tremendous impact through his positive influence on decisions made in the immediate years after 1989, and, last but not least, as a personality who effectively contributed to highlighting the Cluj Medical School nationally and internationally. With his loss, medical education in Cluj and the field of surgery in Romania are undoubtedly poorer.

As students and collaborators, we have the duty to carry forward his message of professionalism, generosity, and richness of spirit, as well as the ever-renewed love for people, patients, and those he taught in medicine. In few words, a true man and a genuine Professor.

Professor Petru-Adrian Mircea
Cluj, 13 December 2023