
IN MEMORIAM PROFESSOR MIHAI MANASIA



This year marks two decades since Professor Mihai Manasia left us. Unexpectedly, all of a sudden, and much too soon. He was only 68 years old when he died. It happened in the very place where he had spent most of his life, by the patients' beds.

Almost 60 years ago, when Nephrology was just starting to turn into a full specialization, the young doctor Mihai Manasia was, de facto, the first nephrologist in Cluj and Transylvania, and among the first in the country.

With a vision that few were having at that time, he realized the necessity of a deeper specialization in internal

medicine. During a period when the holistic approach was predominant, the professor militated convincingly for solid knowledge in a well-defined field, even if more restrictive. He was amongst the first forefathers of renal biopsy, at a time when this method was just being introduced into medical practice.

After 1960, he essentially contributed to the good functioning of the first Acute Dialysis Department in Cluj and Transylvania, the second of this kind in the country, after Bucharest. In 1976, he set up the Chronic Dialysis Department of the Clinical Hospital in Cluj District. At that particular moment there were similar departments only in Timisoara and Bucharest. He made a great effort to bring together all branches of nephrology - acute and chronic renal failure, as well as clinical nephrology – in the same unit, The Clinical Department of Nephrology and Dialysis, which, rightfully, bears his name.

As a professor, his vast personal experience made him extremely convincing for his students or fellow doctors. He also published very much, important articles and books, with high impact, during a time when the access to medical information was difficult and limited. As former collaborators, we all remember even today, when much is debated about intellectual honesty, his detailed and correct approach in preparing his publications.

Nowadays there are many departments of nephrology in Cluj and Transylvania. But all this development started with Professor Manasia. Doctors and patients, we all owe him our deep gratitude, but unfortunately we no longer can express it to him personally.

For everything he achieved, may he rest in peace and be always remembered!

Dan Stefan Vladutiu