

MEMORIES OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES - PROFESSOR AUREL MOGA

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This year marks 110 years since the birth of Professor Aurel Moga, member of the Romanian Academy, and it is the best time for the Medical School in Cluj-Napoca to bring homage to the brilliant representative of Romanian medicine, as well as a very good opportunity for me to evoke the first President of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The Academy of Medical Sciences was founded on 21-22 of June 1969, when the *Constituent Assembly* presided by the Ministry of Health, Aurel Moga, took place. Delegates from all medical research units and the medical and pharmaceutical academic institutions in the country participated in the Assembly, representatives of both the old and the young generations.

On this occasion the Minister of Health, Professor Aurel Moga emphasized the importance of the creation of the AMS as a scientific forum designed to bring together all the scientific forces and coordinate medical and pharmaceutical scientific research. Concluding that the majority of the delegates were present, he declared the *Assembly for the Foundation of the Academy of Medical Sciences* open. The session was further presided by Professor Stefan Milcu, who proposed the meeting agenda.

1. Presentation, discussion and adoption of the statute of the Academy of Medical Sciences.
2. Election of honorary members, full members, corresponding members and the members of the Board of AMS.

The agenda was unanimously voted.

The project of the AMS statute was presented by the Ministry of Health, Professor Aurel Moga. It included provisions that defined the activity, organization, the functions and the governing bodies. Numerous participants (dozens) took the floor, among which:

Prof. dr. Nicolae Nestorescu, President of the Medical Scientific Societies Union;

Prof. dr. Octavian Fodor, Rector of the Cluj-Napoca Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy;

Prof. dr. Ioan Pop de Popa, Vicerektor of the Târgu Mureş Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy;

Prof. dr. Radu Păun;

Prof. dr. Ioan Moraru, Vice-minister of Health;

After the completion of the meeting agenda, *Prof. dr. Ion Păcuraru* took the floor on behalf of the election committee. He read the list of candidates for the Board of the AMS. The list was unanimously voted.

The Academy of Medical Sciences Board was composed of: one president, 4 vicepresidents and 12 members.

Acad. Aurel Moga - president;

Acad. Ştefan Milcu - vicepresident;

Acad. Csögör Ludovic - vicepresident;

Acad. Păun Radu - vicepresident;

Acad. Moraru Ion - vicepresident.

Visibly marked by emotion, the unanimously elected President of the Academy expressed his thanks and the conviction that the foundation of this high scientific forum would play an important role in the subsequent development of Romanian medical sciences. The creation of the AMS represents an event which should be appropriately marked in the history of an epoch.

The AMS started its activity in September 1969. It is organized and functions according to the Decree 590/1969 and the Statute approved by HCM 1759/1969.

The State Council of the Romanian Socialist Republic decrees

Art. 1 – The Academy of Medical Sciences is established as a state institution with full legal status and having its head office in Bucharest. The Academy of Medical Sciences functions under the auspices of the Ministry of Health to which it will report all its activities.

Art. 2 – The Academy of Medical Sciences is the scientific forum responsible for the development of medical sciences and the promotion of health care of the Romanian population.

Art. 3 – In order to fulfill its duties, the Academy of Medical Sciences will perform the following activities:

a) Through its institutions and units it performs research work in the field of medical theory and practice, in close relation to the needs of public health.

b) Organizes, supervises and coordinates scientific research activities in the subordinate medical and pharmaceutical research institutions and units.

c) Coordinates and supervises medical scientific activities in the higher education institutions and research units other than its own, in collaboration with the Ministry of education, other ministries or central and local administration organizations.

d) Contributes to putting into practice the results of medical research and ensures the technical and managerial training in the health units.

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e) It will perform any other activities attributed by law.

The coordination and supervision of medical scientific activities by the Academy of Medical Sciences will be uniform and consistent, in accordance with the general norms established by the General Scientific Research Council.

Art. 4 – The Academy of Medical sciences has honorary members, full members and corresponding members, elected by the General Assembly of the Academy according to its statute.

Art. 5 – The governing body of the Academy of Medical Sciences is the General Assembly, formed of the full and corresponding members as well as representatives of scientists from research and higher education units, elected according to the Academy statute.

Art. 6 – The governing between the Assembly meetings is ensured by the Academy Board, formed of the President, vicepresidents and 11-17 members elected by the General Assembly. The Board activities are based on the principle of collective leadership.

Art. 7 – The governing bodies of the Academy of Medical Sciences deliberate in the presence of at least 2/3 of their members and make decisions based on the vote of the majority of the total number of members. The members of the governing bodies are elected for a period of 4 years.

Art. 8 – For the activity of the Academy of Medical Sciences the maximum number of members is stipulated in the annex, which is an integral part of this Decree.

Art. 9 – The organization and functioning of the Academy of Medical Sciences is established by the statute approved by the Council of Ministers.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE

ss. Nicolae Ceaușescu

Bucharest, 21 August 1969

Nr. 590

Council of State

The Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Romania decides:

Art. 1 – The here attached Statute of the Academy of Medical sciences is approved.

Art. 2 – Medical scientific research institutes and units listed in annex 1 will no longer belong to the Ministry of Health, but will be under the Academy of Medical Sciences, with all their assets and financial indicators.

Institutes and units listed in annex 2 will be taken from the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania and put under the Academy of Medical Sciences, with all their assets and financial indicators.

Art. 3 – The personnel and central units of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania pertaining to medical scientific research that will be under the Academy of Medical Sciences, together with the corresponding economic indicators will be established by a protocol signed between the Ministry of Health and the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Art. 4 – The personnel and central units of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania and of the medical scientific institutes and units taken over by the Academy of Medical sciences are considered transferred for institutional reasons and in accordance with the Labour Code.

Art. 5 – Medical research institutions listed in annex 3

may grant the title of doctor and propose candidates for the title of docent doctor in Sciences in accordance with the law.

Art. 6 – The budget for the functioning of the Academy of Medical Sciences will be from the state budget, within the budget plan of the Ministry of Health. For the year 1969 the necessary funds will be provided by redistribution from the institutions and units mentioned in annexes 1 and 2.

Art. 7 – The human resources, salaries and education requirements for the personnel of the Academy of Medical Sciences are established based on annex 1/13 A of the Council of Ministers Decision no. 366/1965, group II, by the Ministry of Health and with the approval of the Ministry of Labour.

The personnel of the Academy of Medical Sciences can receive bonuses up to 4% of the salary quota for 3 months.

Art. 8 – The salary fund and the minister's fund established by the Ministry of Health are increased for the Academy of Medical Sciences by the national Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour, according to the criteria of the Council of Ministers decision no. 1048/1969.

Art. 9 – The maximum number of cars for the Ministry of Health, as stipulated in Council of Ministers decision no. 1058/1967, will be increased by 4, which will be attributed to the Academy of Medical Sciences.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ION GHEORGHE MAURER

Bucharest, 1 September 1969.

No. 1758.

The Romanian Government

As in the first four years since the foundation of the Academy of Medical Sciences I coordinated the department of *external relations, secretariat and human resources*, I had the opportunity to see the AMS President at work. But I had already known him in the 60's when I was the manager of the Sanatorium of Olanesti where Professor Aurel Moga used to spend his holidays; he had krenotherapy with water from source 24. During his holidays he also took trips in the Arges County, in which I also participated. I have kept memories and a few photographs of those times.



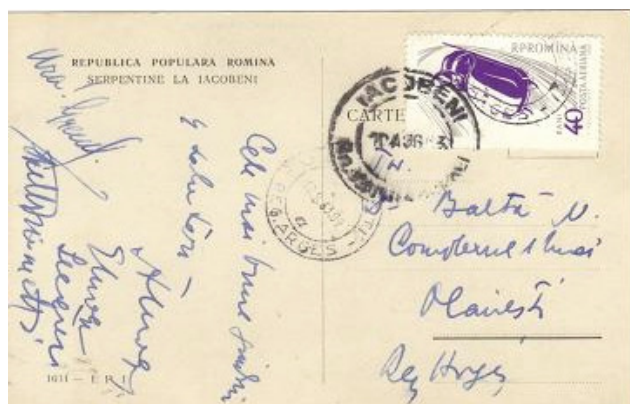
Prof. Aurel Moga with inhabitants of the village of Vidraru, the future site of the dam.



Prof. Aurel Moga with an excursion group in the front of the villa in the area of the Vidraru dam.



At a dinner in my company.



Professor Aurel Moga continues his holiday in Bucovina.

In Iacobeni, a settlement situated in a very beautiful area (according to Mrs. Manuela Moga's description), 9 km from the town Vatra Dornei. It is the place from where he enjoyed sending me his greetings. It is a postcard from Iacobeni where he went with Ion Grecu and Stela Simonetti.

An extremely important event for my professional career took place on the 6th of November 1963, when I maintained my dissertation for obtaining the title of *candidate PhD in Medical Sciences*; the title of my dissertation was *Changes in the levels of endogenous creatinine clearance in certain medical and surgical kidney diseases by krenotherapy* (mineral water sources Caciulata and no.24 Olanesti), scientific supervisor Professor Eugen Moraru.

The event was attended by Professor Aurel Moga, the rector of the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy, who appreciated my dissertation and presentation in a few words. This was followed by the vote of the 56 council members.

The appreciation and sympathy that Aurel Moga had for me were reactivated in the 4 years after the foundation of the AMS, when I became his devoted collaborator.

As I had the chance to work with the AMS, I would like to impart my reflections about the first AMS President. I do this with objectivity, frankness, shyness and immense respect.

Professor Aurel Moga led the AMS with passion, devotion and competence since its foundation (September 1969) to the last day of his life (19 August 1977). He passed away abruptly, while still active.

His whole activity as President of the Academy of Medical sciences was prolific, complex and prestigious, in a good scientific and human climate pervaded by an *academic style and spirit*.

The whole activity of the AMS Board and governance bears the mark of the president's personal example, of his sound logic, order and critical spirit, doubled by the feeling of duty, expressed in a civil, dominant and imposing tone. His leadership of the Academy of Medical Sciences conferred this institution a very high prestige (Alex Ciplea).

The president's preoccupations were many and varied, and concerned the domains of channeling and organizing medical research, the development of new research subjects and evaluation of results. One of the missions was the promotion of both basic and applied research at the standard of *excellency*; the development of research that could be useful and applicable in the practice of health care.

He was an excellent organizer of medical scientific research, a quality proven by:

- the *elaboration and definition of the Statute* of the AMS organization and functioning;
- the *foundation* of the AMS newsletter, whose most objective and active editor was himself;
- the annual scientific sessions of the AMS with

very dynamic themes;

- he stipulated periodical meetings of the units dependant on the AMS in which the president would participate;

- setting up committees for the medical specialties, organized by domains, considered to be of the highest importance;

- central laboratories were founded for top quality research. It must be emphasized that the central laboratories were specialized by domains, modernly equipped and employing highly qualified specialists. Some of them were used exclusively for research and put at the disposal of top research teams, others were destined to examinations necessary for the medical practice. Their organization and functioning were based on *methodological guidelines* elaborated by the AMS Board;

- the president's preoccupations also included the publication of a bibliographic index, aiming at creating a retrieval system for the medical and pharmaceutical scientific output of our country).

They were all measures meant to optimize the organization, coordination and monitoring of scientific research.

The AMS President also developed a good collaboration with the Ministry of Health, which helped both institutions to achieved their projects and apply the results of scientific research into practice.

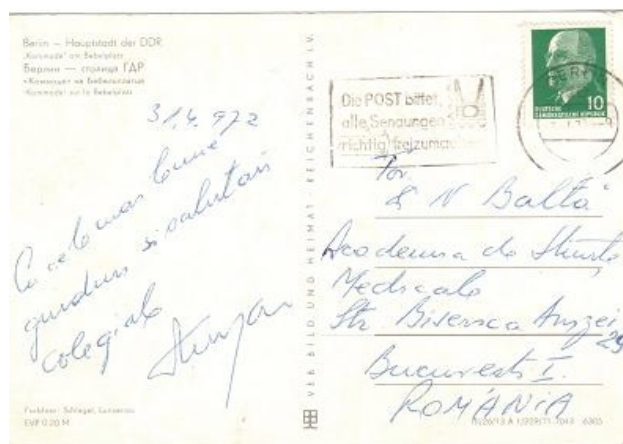


President Aurel Moga in his office in 29 Amzei St, talking with my friend Prof. Emil Măgureanu (general secretary of the AMS) and a close friend, prof. Ioan Orha.

The objectives of the Academy of Medical Sciences also included the promotion of Romanian scientific research at an international level, raising the prestige and developing international scientific relations. The AMS had

collaborations with similar Academies in the Soviet Union and other countries. Aurel Moga visited the Soviet Union, being invited by the Academy of Medical Sciences. On this occasion President Aurel Moga was received by the Soviet Minister of Health. I remember an episode from the Soviet minister's room. When he found out that Aurel Moga was going to visit medical units in Tbilisi, he told us a joke with a Georgian who visited France and was served a typical French drink called *cognac*; to which the Georgian replied: "but this is a Georgian word". This illustrated the friendly and warm atmosphere in which the meeting took place.

A year later the Academy of Medical Sciences received the visit of a Soviet delegation of the AMS, a delegation which I accompanied in their visit to research units in Bucharest and hospitals in Craiova.



President Aurel Moga also made an official visit to The federal republic of Germany in 1972.

In this period the AMS was focused on developing *bilateral and multilateral collaborations with other similar institutions both in socialist and capitalist countries*

The AMS and its institutions were visited by numerous scientists from abroad. In the 1970' the Romanian scientist Emil Palade had several rounds of discussion at the AMS headquarters in 29 Amzei St. The list of the scientists who visited the AMS is very long.

I wrote this presentation of the first president of the Academy of Medical Sciences with deep feelings and respect, as I knew Professor Aurel Moga directly and personally in those times, I worked very close to him. This could be considered a chronicle of that period, a page of live history of this emblematic personality and of the *Academy of Medical Sciences*.