

PROFESSOR SORIN E. LEUCUȚA, PhD



Friday, the 24th of June 2016, Professor Sorin Emilian Leucuța, PhD passed away. He was an emblematic professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca and an illustrious personality in the pharmaceutical scientific world, both at national and international levels.

Professor Leucuța was born in Oradea on the 7th of December 1939. After graduating “George Coșbuc” high school from Năsăud, he attended the Faculty of Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca, and obtained the Bachelor Degree in Pharmacy in 1961.

Professor Leucuța began his professional activity as a pharmacist at the local pharmacy in Cefa village, Bihor County, where he held the position of head pharmacist between 1962 and 1964. In 1965, after his application was selected from many others, he moved to Cluj-Napoca, where he worked at Pharmacy no.1 until 1969. During 1967-1969, he was a PhD scholar at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca, in the field of Pharmaceutical Technology and in 1969 he was employed as a substitute teaching assistant at the same department. In 1970, he defended his PhD thesis entitled “Contributions to the study of drug substances interactions with micro-molecular excipients and surfactants in aqueous suspensions and solutions”, developed under the scientific supervision of Professor Victor Ciocănelea.

After obtaining his PhD title, Prof. Leucuța continued his activity within the same professional group and became a teaching assistant in 1972. During the following years, he showed his outstanding qualities and built a remarkable

scientific and teaching career, so that in 1990 he became a full professor and head of the department in which he worked and was formed. Between 1990 and 1992, due to his moral and professional qualities, he was elected Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj-Napoca, and from 1990 to his retirement he was a member of the University Senate and a member of the Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy. He retired in 2009, but continued his professional activity as a consulting/emeritus professor.

Throughout his entire career, Professor Sorin E. Leucuța was interested in achieving the highest performance in everything he did. His academic career consisted of over 45 years of teaching, writing, research, school/tuition founder, esteemed by students and colleagues.

Professor Sorin E. Leucuța was the founder of Biopharmacy and Pharmacokinetics fields and introduced these disciplines at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Cluj-Napoca in 1973, where they were studied for the first time in Romania. He initiated and supported the introduction of Clinical Pharmacy in the curriculum of the Faculty of Pharmacy (1982).

He developed and improved the Pharmaceutical Technology by bringing it to standards similar to other well-known universities across Europe, where he completed internships and had academic connections (‘Paris-Sud’ University, ‘Louis Pasteur’ University from Strasbourg, ‘Joseph Fourier’ University from Grenoble, ‘Libre’ University from Bruxelles, Rouen University). In 1990, he introduced the Industrial Pharmaceutical Technology discipline for the first time in Romania, and in 1995 he organized a new laboratory for this purpose, equipped with specific apparatus for the pharmaceutical industry field.

The scientist Sorin E. Leucuța had a significant contribution to the progress of knowledge in the fields of pharmaceutical technology, biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics. Among the most relevant research subjects, the following can be mentioned: modified release drug formulations (immediate, delayed, prolonged), micro- and nanosystems designed for targeted therapy (microspheres, liposomes, nanoparticles), bioavailability and bioequivalence drug determinations.

Professor Sorin E. Leucuța, with his dynamic and enterprising spirit, created and coordinated the activity of the Biopharmaceutical Drug Research Center, acknowledged by CNC SIS (2002), and of the Bioequivalence Laboratory, within which he conducted more than 50 research contracts. In 1990, he became a PhD supervisor and led 32 PhD theses, from which 3 were under joint supervision with ‘Joseph Fourier’ University in Grenoble and 2 with ‘Babeș-Bolyai’

University from Cluj-Napoca. He was the director of 4 research grants, won by national competition. He published over 380 scientific research articles in prestigious national and international journals and obtained 31 OSIM patents.

Professor Sorin E. Leucuța was the author and coauthor of more than 20 monographs, scientific publications and teaching lectures for pharmacy students, such as: *Introduction in Biopharmaceutics* (1975), *Pharmacokinetics* (1981), *Clinical Pharmacy Issues* (1984), *Pharmaceutical Formulations Technology* (1995), *Vectorized Drugs* (1996), *Industrial Pharmaceutical Technology* (2001, 2008), *Pharmaceutical Biotechnology of Therapeutic Proteins* (2008), *Pharmaceutical Nanotechnology and Biomedical Implications* (2010), *Modified Release Drugs* (2011), *Cytosolic bioavailability of nanoparticles with interference ribonucleic acids for molecular therapy* (2015).

Professor Sorin E. Leucuța became a member of the Medical Sciences Academy of Romania in 1992, and during 1992-2012 he was the secretary of its Cluj-Napoca branch. He was a member in numerous national and international pharmaceutical associations, and during 2002-2010 he was the president of Romanian Pharmaceutical Sciences Society. Also, he was a member in national scientific and professional committees and in the editorial board of several scientific journals (an active member of this journal - Clujul Medical; and also of: *Farmacia; Terapeutică, Farmacologie și Toxicologie Clinică; Acta Medică Transilvanica; Journal of Drug Delivery; Science and Technology; Current Clinical Pharmacology; Internațional Journal of Nanomaterials; Nanotechnology and Nanomedicine; Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmaceutics* - editor). He organized many national conferences (The National Congresses of Pharmacy, Biopharmaceutics and Pharmacokinetics Symposiums) and was a member of

scientific committees at international congresses.

For his prodigious activity, Professor Sorin E. Leucuța was awarded numerous prizes by the Romanian Academy (1990), 'Iuliu Hațieganu' University of Medicine and Pharmacy (1994, 2002, 2004), CNCSIS (2002) and the 'Merit in Education' Order and Medal with the rank of Officer (2004).

In addition to awards and honors, Professor Sorin E. Leucuța was, foremost, rewarded with respect and appreciation by his collaborators and all those who knew him. Relying on moral and professional principles of high value and on a permanent desire for progress, Professor Sorin E. Leucuța shed "light" wherever he was present. A talented and charismatic orator, he delighted generations of students and pharmacists with his lectures and speeches. With his loss, the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj-Napoca and the Romanian pharmaceutical field are from now on, incomplete.

For those who had the chance to be his close collaborators and department colleagues, the Professor was a warm yet firm mentor, leading us with the same values that have guided his own life: work, perseverance, courage, honesty and friendship. He was an authentic teacher, a human and a professional model.

The Professor's passing away left an immense void among us, which will be hard to fill. We shall miss his advice and comments, encouragement and appreciations. We shall considerably miss his presence in our midst.

We are deeply grateful to our Professor for everything he did for the department and for each one of us. His spirit will continue to exist alongside us and through us.

Marcela Achim