

Oliviu Pascu (1939-2018)



In September 2018, the 3rd Medical Clinic in Cluj-Napoca lost one of its most remarkable Professors, and the Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy lost one of its most influential leaders of recent years.

Profesor Oliviu Pascu graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca in 1963. After three years of activity as a general physician, he was admitted to the 3rd Medical Clinic as assistant by Professor Octavian Fodor. He gradually developed his academic career, becoming a Professor in 1991 and Head of the 3rd Medical Clinic in 1994. Professor Pascu was for more than 50 years, deeply involved in all aspects of professional and teaching activity in this hospital. Since 1969 he had been active in the Endoscopy Department of the hospital, introducing many procedures in his daily practice, such as polypectomy and endoscopic hemostasis, therapy of esophageal varices, and later videocapsule endoscopy. For a long period, he was the only endoscopist in Cluj and organised postgraduate courses of endoscopy for specialists. His first monograph was a textbook of digestive endoscopy (1982).

He was elected Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (1990-1992) and then President of the University (1992-2000). He reorganized medical education in our university by eliminating

some old courses and introducing new ones and also a modular system for undergraduate teaching. He ascertained the promotion of competent personalities to chair the university departments and to modernize the teaching process.

Professor Oliviu Pascu managed to acquire modern medical equipment for the 3rd Medical Clinic, which became one of the first hospitals in Romania providing medical care at European standards. He essentially contributed to the foundation of the Regional Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and named it after his mentor, Prof. Dr. Octavian Fodor.

In 2009, he organized the first endoscopic workshop supervised by the European Society of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy (ESGE). It was followed by the yearly Digestive Endoscopy workshops.

As Head of the 3rd Medical Clinic, Prof. Oliviu Pascu encouraged his young doctors to visit and obtain training in European medical centers in order to acquire the most advanced medical knowledge. Many of us benefitted from this opportunity. By his calm authority, he inspired a friendly team spirit to his staff.

He was President of the Romanian Society of Digestive Endoscopy till 2009, and in the recent years, Chair of the Gastroenterology Committee of the Romanian Health Ministry. He published 42 medical books and more than 150 papers in international and Romanian journals, and received many awards confirming his national and international activity. He was decorated by the President of Romania with the Order *Serviciul Credincios* and was a member of the Romanian Academy of Medicine.

There are many other aspects of his medical and teaching activity, too numerous to mention here. But his legacy, a great and influential University and a modern school of gastroenterology and hepatology in Cluj-Napoca will be an inspiration for generations to come. Professor Oliviu Pascu will never be forgotten!

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