

Contributions to the Romanian Gastroenterology and Hepatology Literature

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The interest of Romanian physicians in diseases of the digestive system began with the advent of modern medicine [1, 2]. Octavian Fodor (1913-1976) was a pioneer of Romanian gastroenterology and a founder together with Caius Tiberiu Spârchez (1899-1977) of the first medical units for gastroenterology in Romania. Between 1935 and 1943, Prof. Caius Tiberiu Spârchez, M.D., PhD., headed, together with Prof. Gheorghe Popovici and Prof. Vitold Baroni, the Gastroenterology Department of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Dacia Superioară in Cluj-Napoca.

Romanian Society of Gastroenterology was created in 1958; now its title is the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (www.srgh.ro). One of the important activities of the members of this society was the writing and editing of textbooks in the field of digestive pathology, both with educational and scientific content. It is worth noting that, many of the books were written and published in the city of Cluj-Napoca, where its editorial activity has been well documented by medical historians [3-6].

In this editorial, we present the books of gastroenterology published in Romania, with the main focus between 1958 (when the society was created) to 2018, (when the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology celebrated its 60th anniversary).

Octavian Fodor and his team published many high-quality books, correlating concepts of physiopathology, histology and clinical aspect in different gastroenterology disorders. The book „New Concepts in Catarrhal Jaundice. Clinical and laboratory contributions”, published in 1944 („Cartea Românească” Printing House in Cluj) represented an important medical contribution of that period in Romania, focusing on the reevaluation of what was then called „catarrhal jaundice”. In the 1940s, medical terminology was in transition. „Catarrhal jaundice” (previously considered a simple inflammation of the bile ducts) was beginning to be understood, through the contributions of Prof. Fodor, as a form of viral or epidemic hepatitis.

Relevant medical books from Octavian Fodor and his team included: “Malabsorption syndrome” (O.Fodor, D. Dumitraşcu, 1967), “Peptic ulcer. Physiology and pathogenesis” (O. Fodor, St. Popescu, Stela Urcan, 1968), “Chronic hepatitis. Nosologically framework. Pathogenesis. Treatment” (O. Fodor coordinator, 1970), “Chronic enterocolitis” (O. Fodor, D. Dumitraşcu, 1970), “Viral Hepatitis” (N.M. Constantinescu, N. Cajal, O. Fodor, Olga Zavate, 1971), “Hemorrhagic rectocolitis” (O. Fodor, L. Stănescu, D. Dejica, 1979). Molecular biology integrated into modern medicine was presented in two volume books coordinated by O. Fodor (“Molecular biology and modern medicine”, 1979). “Biology and aging” (O. Fodor coordinator, 1971), “Prevention. Biomedical and social issues” (O.Fodor coordinator, 1978). “The rehabilitation of the gastrointestinal patients” (O. Fodor, Fl. Marin, D. Dumitraşcu, 1978) proposed aspects regarding lifestyle management and diet.

Endoscopy has a distinguished and well-established history in Romania, originating with the introduction of rigid rectosigmoidoscopy by the pioneers of gastroenterology as a recognized medical discipline and specialty. In time, the spread of the endoscopy practice was supported by specific books “Handbook of upper digestive endoscopy” (Oliviu Pascu, 1982), “Introductory guide into digestive endoscopy” (Adrian Goldiș, C.J.J. Mulder, 2000), “Digestive endoscopy. Diagnosis and therapy” (Radu Mihail Voiosu, 2002), “Handbook of endoscopy” (2 volumes: one dedicated to upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and the other to colonoscopy, Anca Trifan, 2002), “Therapeutic endoscopy in biliary stone disease (Marcel Tanțău, 2006), “Digestive endoscopy. Diagnostic principle and therapeutic techniques” (Radu Mihail Voiosu, 2010), “Modern invstigational techniques and

therapeutic perspectives in digestive diseases (Teodor Bădescu, Constantin Chira coordinators, 2011), "Gastrointestinal Endoscopy" (edited by Oliviu Pascu, 2011), New techniques in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (Oliviu Pascu, Andrada Seicean, 2011), "Endoscopic diagnosis and therapy of early gastrointestinal neoplasia" (Alina Tanțău, Marcel Tanțău, 2012), "Scores and classifications in digestive endoscopy (Radu Bogdan Mateescu, Lucian Negreanu, Theodor Alexandru Voiosu, 2015), Endoscopic atlas of digestive semiology and pathology (Ecaterina Daniela Dobru, 2007)

Books describing the technique of endoscopic ultrasound (linear and radial) and the specific pathology investigated by these techniques were also published: "Atlas of linear echoendoscopy" (Adrian Săftoiu, Sergiu Marian Cazacu 2009), "Echoendoscopic imaging of the biliary-pancreatic diseases" (Andrada Seicean, 2014).

In addition to these titles, Romanian endoscopists contributed to international books of gastrointestinal endoscopy.

Ultrasonography was introduced relatively early in Romania following its emergence, as evidenced by the publication "Annotated Atlas of Abdominal Ultrasonography" (Gh. Badea, R. Badea 1990), "Abdominal ultrasonography guide" (Gheorghe Gluhovschi, Ioan Sporea, Petru Boiboreanu, Virgil Niculescu, 1993), "Principles of clinical ultrasonography" (Gh Badea, R. Badea, A. Văleanu, P. Mircea, S. Ducea, 1994), "Abdominal ultrasound in medical and surgical emergencies" (Gheorghe Gluhovschi, Ioan Sporea, Petru Boiboreanu, Petru Maties, 1995), "Transabdominal ultrasound of digestive tract" (Ioan Sporea 1996)

The "Textbook of clinical ultrasonography", (3 volumes, Radu I. Badea, Sorin Marian Ducea, Petru Adrian Mircea, Florin Stamatian, Dumitru Zdrengea, Mircea Stamate 2000) have a major role in the education of generation of physician of different specialties that practiced diagnostic and interventional ultrasound. Another important books addressing clinical issues were "Abdominal ultrasonography practical guide" (Gheorghe Gluhovschi, Ioan Sporea, 2001), "Abdominal ultrasonography in clinical practice" (Tudorel Ciurea, Ion Ragoveanu, 2001), "Abdominal ultrasound in clinical practice" (Ioan Sporea, Cristina Cijevschi-Prelipcean 2010), "Role of ultrasonography

in diagnosis and therapy of biliary obstructions" (Zeno Spârchez, 2015), Clinical ultrasonography of the abdomen and pelvis (Radu Badea, Lidia Ciobanu, Monica Lușor, 2012), "Ultrasonography in clinical practice" (Radu Badea, Monica Platon-Lușor, Lidia Ciobanu, 2016).

Contrast-enhanced ultrasound, a more recently developed technique was described and illustrated in "Contrast-enhanced ultrasound in focal liver lesions" (Ioan Sporea, Alina Popescu, Mirela Dănilă, Roxana Șirli, 2006), "Contrast enhanced ultrasonography (CEUS) in abdominal pathology" (Ioan Sporea, Mirela Dănilă, Alina Popescu, Roxana Șirli, 2009).

In 2016 a comprehensive book about elastography was published: The hepatic elastography using ultrasound waves (Ioan Sporea, Roxana Șirli)

Please refer to the Supplementary File (www.jgld.ro), which presents the covers of all the books mentioned above.

Conflicts of interest: None to declare.

Supplementary material: To access the supplementary material visit the online version of the *J Gastrointestin Liver Dis* at <http://dx.doi.org/10.15403/jgld-6531>

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