

Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava (1940-2023)



Professor Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava was born on April 17, 1940, in Ploiesti, Romania. She graduated from the Secondary School in Chisinau with an Academic gold medal in 1958. She started her medical training at the Institute of Medicine in Chisinau, currently named Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy and obtained her diploma with outstanding results in 1964.

Professor Dumbrava began her clinical practice as an endocrinologist, initially at a children's hospital and later at Municipal Hospital No. 1. She pursued her PhD at the Department of Internal Medicine at the State Institute of Medicine in Chisinau in 1967, under the guidance of Professor Poliuhov. During this period, she developed a keen interest in gastroenterology and hepatology, which she pursued passionately and made significant contributions to in Moldova.

She worked at the Institute of Medicine in Chisinau as an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine from 1970. In 1994, she became a professor and eventually rose to the position of head of the department, which she held from 1987 until 2016.

Notorious lecturer, with highly respected, valued opinions, and extended clinical experience, Professor Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava contributed substantially to the organization and improvement of the educational system in the Internal Medicine field. During the tumultuous period of 1990 – 1995, her activity proved to be crucial in the development of the department, resulting in curriculum changes, implementation of residency in gastroenterology, transition of medical studies in the Romanian language, and application of evidence-based medicine in daily practice. Under her authoritative leadership, the first gastroenterology specialists were formed in the premises of the department, highly proficient and able to face the requirements of the time.

Professor Dumbrava is widely acknowledged as the pioneer and primary advocate for gastroenterology and hepatology services in the Republic of Moldova. She has been serving as a consultant for the Gastroenterology Department of the Republican Clinical Hospital since 1977 and later became the head of the

Clinic within the same hospital. For several decades, she was considered the leading gastroenterologist within the Ministry of Health, promoting new methods of diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases. Under her leadership, the first National Protocols in the field of gastroenterology were developed. Professor Dumbrava has trained numerous specialists, a significant number of whom have gone on to become department heads, professors, university lecturers, hospital heads, and department heads. Almost all of the well-known specialists in gastroenterology and hepatology who are currently active in the Republic of Moldova are disciples of Professor Dumbrava.

She supervised a total of 24 PhD dissertations and 4 doctoral theses in medical sciences, creating an admirable national school of gastroenterology and hepatology. The research activity of professor Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava, in addition to the two PhD theses and being a professor is echoed in over 650 scientific works, including 11 monographs, 2 textbooks, 20 patents for inventions and 55 innovations, devoted to the study of various problems in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endocrinology and ecology. In 1991, she founded the Scientific Laboratory of Gastroenterology. She was the leader of multiple national studies and actively participated in international research projects.

Professor Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava created the first medical society of gastroenterologists and hepatologists from the Republic of Moldova, named „Hepateg” in 1999 and served as its leader for many years. Additionally, she was an honorary member of the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, a member of EASL, an honorary academician of the International Academy of Ecology and Life Protection Science (IAELPS), and was awarded the „Gloria Muncii” order. Professor Dumbrava also held the title of Emeritus.

She connected with European digestive health professionals, primarily from Romania, but also from Ukraine, Russia, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Italy, by participating in scientific events abroad and inviting well-known specialists from around the globe to Moldova.

The exceptional human qualities, erudition, and tact of Professor Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava, a born pedagogue, along with her demanding attitude towards herself, combined with rare decency and goodwill, made her highly respected and appreciated by her colleagues, students, patients, and everyone who knew her.

We mourn the loss of university professor Vlada-Tatiana Dumbrava, who was a dedicated medical professional, an experienced clinician, a talented scientist and manager, and a true role model for her profession. She served Alma Mater and the Moldavian national health system with unwavering commitment. We have to honour her memory with gratitude and keep her legacy alive forever.

Eugen Tcaciuc

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