

## Contributions to the Romanian Gastroenterology and Hepatology Literature (part 2)

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In the first part of the editorial aiming to display the contribution of Romanian gastroenterologists to the literature of our specialty [1], we included all books written by Romanian authors (gastroenterologists or internists, during the period when gastroenterology had not been fully established as a specialty in our country). This editorial covers the period from 1958, the year in which the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology was established under the name Romanian Society of Gastroenterology, to 2018, when it celebrated its 60th anniversary. We presented in the first part the first books of that period on endoscopy and ultrasonography, as well as the DVDs and CDs released by our colleagues. The second part reviews additional books and strives to be.

Continuing with other investigational techniques, we should mention the pioneering book "Sequential scintigraphy in gastroenterology" by Sabin Cotul (1983) which addresses the use of radioisotopes in the diagnosis of gastrointestinal diseases, including esophageal transit and gastroesophageal reflux, gastric emptying and motility studies, liver and biliary tract scintigraphy (hepatobiliary type), detection of occult digestive bleeding by red blood cell labeling, diagnosis of Meckel's diverticulum. Carmen Fierbinteanu Braticevici et al. published "The role of breath

tests in the non-invasive diagnosis of liver fibrosis" (2013), describing the role of breath tests (such as octanoic acid) in assessing mitochondrial function, liver metabolic dynamics, and the presence of steatohepatitis or stages of fibrosis. The group conducted by Dan Dumitrascu published the main Romanian references on gastrointestinal manometry "Digestive manometry: theoretical basis and practical guide" (2003), "High resolution esophageal manometry guide" (Teodora Surdea-Blaga, Dan Dumitrascu, 2015). From emerging centers were released other books, i.e. "Modern diagnostic and treatment techniques in organic pathology of the small intestine" (2010) by Cristin Constantin Vere et al. from Craiova and "The liver and the particularities of diagnosis through ultrasound-guided biopsy" (2006) by Ciprian Brisc from Oradea.

Numerous books were dedicated to clinical pathology, written by colleagues from all Romanian tertiary centers. Focused on esophageal pathology were "Esophageal and gastric reflux pathology" (Vasile Andreica, Mariana Andreica, 1989), "Gastroesophageal reflux disease" (Adrian Goldis, Peter Poth, Tanase Duse, 2002), "Diseases of the esophagus, stomach and duodenum in the understanding of everyone" (Mircea Diculescu, Carmen Preda, 2003), "Barrett Esophagus" (Mircea Diculescu, Dan Pitigoi, 2004). Several books were dedicated to gastric pathology. The most important was "Gastritis" (1996) coordinated by Dumitru Dumitrascu and awarded with the Romanian Academy Prize. Other books on gastric pathology were "Gastritis and duodenitis" (Simona Bataga, 2007), "Helicobacter pylori infection in gastric and duodenal diseases" (Vasile Andreica, Mariana Andreica, 1994), Helicobacter pylori infection in clinical practice (Ligia Ariana Bancu, 2004). Upper digestive hemorrhages were covered by "Gastrointestinal bleeding" (Tudorel Ciurea, Adrian Saftoiu, 2004), "Upper gastrointestinal bleeding" (Cristina Cijevschi Prelipcean, Ioan Sporea, 2004).

Progressing to the bowel, we mention the first book by Gheorghescu D. and Rebdea D., from Bucharest, "Small bowel. Pathophysiology, clinical features and treatment" (1975). Several books on malabsorption were published in Cluj-Napoca by Iuliu Fodor and Dumitru Dumitrascu, followed by Mircea Grigorescu. Inflammatory bowel disease is very well represented by books written by Doru Dejica and Liviu Stanescu (Cluj-Napoca), Mircea Diculescu (Bucharest), Carol Stanciu (Iasi), Dan Dumitrascu (Cluj-Napoca).

A very extensive body of work is dedicated to hepatology, biliary tract disorders and pancreatology. Starting with the first books by Lucian Buligescu from Bucharest (“Diseases of the liver, biliary tract and pancreas”, 2 volumes, 1980/1981), a large number of books were authored by prominent opinion leaders representing all major medical centers in the country: “Clinical hepatology” (Paulina Ciurea, Tudorel Ciurea, 2000), “Hepatitis C news” (Liana Gheorghe, Cristian Gheorghe, 2006), “Chronic hepatitis C” (Mihnea Horia Strain, 2008), “Portal hypertension and its complications” (Carmen Fierbinteanu-Braticevici, 2009), “Liver fibrosis” (Carmen Fierbinteanu-Braticevici 2013). The biliary system has been extensively addressed in several books authored Cluj-Napoca “Clinical pathology of bile acids” (Mircea Grigorescu, 1983), Gallstone diseases (Dumitru Dumitrascu, Monica Acalovschi, Mircea Grigorescu, 1989), “Modern strategies in the treatment of gallstones” (Monica Acalovschi, 1994) “Biliary tract tumors” (Monica Acalovschi, 1999), “Cholesterol gallstones, from epidemiology to prevention” (Monica Acalovschi, 2008) representing seminal works in our area. Mircea Grigorescu has a series of books on viral hepatitis released from the proceedings of annual liver meetings.

The pancreas, a subject that is inherently more challenging to present, has nevertheless been well represented through several important works “Acute and chronic pancreatitis” (Mircea Beuran, Andrada Seicean, Marcel Tantau, Mircea Grigorescu, 2020), “Chronic pancreatitis - current approach” (Andrada Seicean, 2009) (Cluj-Napoca), Challenges in pancreatic pathology (Andrada Seicean 2017), “Pancreas and biliary tract disease” (Manoop S. Bhutani, Peter Vilmann, Adrian Saftoiu, 2017).

Oncological gastroenterology has benefited from several published works, some focusing on specific pathologies and others designed as comprehensive textbooks. Very relevant are the numerous volumes edited by Mircea Grigorescu, written with the less expensive collaborators from different disciplines, but also less extended works written by Adrian Goldis, Calin Cipaian, Carol Stanciu, Alina Popescu, Ioan Sporea, Cristian Gheorghe, Liana Gheorghe, Simona Valean. The landmark four volume textbook on digestive oncology by Mircea Grigorescu, Alexandru Irimie, Mircea Beuran remains an important contribution to this field.

The field of functional digestive disorders (disorders of gut-brain interaction) was highlighted in the pioneering book published by Dumitru Dumitrascu in 1991. Several other books appeared authored by Dan L. Dumitrascu, Vasile Drug, Adrian Goldis, Daniela Dobru, Cristina Olaru and Dan Olteanu, Teodora Surdea-Blaga, Laurentiu Nedelcu, Cristin Vere.

The immunological aspects of digestive pathology (“Clinical Immunology”, “Immunotherapy”) were covered by books written by Doru Dejica and his team in 1998, following Toma Nicoleascu (Bucharest) who was the first author in the field “Immunopathology of the digestive tract” (1984).

Prevention aspects in gastrointestinal and liver pathology were detailed in “Prophylaxis - Biomedical and social problems” (Octavian Fodor, 1978), “Preventive Gastroenterology” (Dumitru Dumitrascu, 1987), “Aspects of primary and secondary prophylaxis in colorectal cancer” (Andrada Seicean, 2014). The rehabilitation of patients with

digestive diseases was also covered by a book by Florea Marin (Cluj-Napoca) et al.

Romanian gastroenterologists were involved not only in clinical practice and research but also in medical education and the training of future generations. A significant outcome of this activity is the three-volume series of medical essays and reflections on medical philosophy by Octavian Fodor, entitled: “Searching for permanence” (1980, 1976, 1973). Other essays were written by Carol Stanciu and Oliviu Pascu.

Dumitru Dumitrașcu authored the first books on the methodology of scientific research in the biomedical sciences, including “Steps toward science”, which was later reissued. However, he established himself primarily as a medical essayist and thinker, publishing numerous volumes on medical philosophy, aphorisms, art criticism, personal development in medicine, and related subjects.

Medical communication is a very important topic in our specialty and Dan L. Dumitrascu authored handbooks on this topic. Dedicated to the advancement of education, our colleagues each contributed by writing textbooks for students. We should mention Carol Stanciu, Constantin Chira, Mircea Diculescu, Liana Gheroghe, Cristian Gheorghe, Dan Setlacec, Dan Olteanu, Radu Voiosu, Eugen Dumitru, Dumitru Dumitrascu, Tudorel Ciurea, Daniela Dobru, Oliviu Pascu, Mircea Grigorescu, Ilie Itu.

There are also, for the use of students and of the residents, several textbooks of gastroenterology written by the country’s leading experts in collaboration with their colleagues, at the initiative of Mircea Grigorescu. After 2020 a new edition was published and received several awards [2]. However, gastroenterology is presented also in all textbooks of internal medicine, edited by Octavian Fodor, Radu Paun, Leonida Gherasim, Ion Negoita, Dumitru Dumitrascu.

This retrospective of Romanian editorial activity in hepatogastroenterology highlights the dedication of our colleagues and our scientific society to the dissemination of new knowledge, the advancement of medical education, and the promotion of our scientific achievements. The covers of the books referenced in this editorial are provided in the supplementary file accompanying this article. We hope that future generations of gastroenterologists will continue to update and enrich this list.

**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-7400>.

## REFERENCES

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