

## *In memoriam ...*

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### **Prof. Dr. Nicolae Angelescu is no longer among us ...**

A man with outstanding qualities, demanding first of all to himself, but also to those with whom he came into contact, a man of acknowledged and recognized tenacity and work capacity, a man who never ceased to believe in the present and future of the Romanian school of surgery, and perhaps this was the reason why he pledged his life to it, of undebatable modesty and professionalism, has left.

Born on December 6th 1931 in Rociu, Arges County, he attended the Bucharest Faculty of Medicine, between 1954 and 1960, and in 1964 joined the University's teaching staff, at the Surgery Department.

He obtained his Ph. D. in Medicine, under the supervision of remarkable Prof. Theodor Burghel, with a thesis on "The treatment of acute crisis of resection in experimental renal transplant at dogs".

He underwent all the stages of a rigorous teaching career, becoming, in turn, Senior Lecturer at the "23 August" Clinical Hospital, in the clinic headed back then by Prof. Pavel Simici, Ph.D., and then, in 1980 University Reader, and later, in 1992, Professor at the Surgery Clinic of the Coltea Clinical Hospital.

By embracing the university career, he conveyed the passion, boldness and spirit to his disciples and colleagues, while at the same time remaining closely linked to his peers and not isolated from them, a man of culture, driven by the spirit of a researcher.

Prof. Nicolae Angelescu had an undebatable scientific activity and published countless studies in this area.

This is the reason why it is not my intention to dwell upon Professor Nicolae Angelescu's scientific accomplishments, as they survive through the numerous publications and papers presented in national and international congresses.

Instead, I would like to highlight some of the features that defined him as an outstanding person, as a devotee of people.

He replied to the immensity of the unknown which opened in front of him, through hard-work and a ceaseless will to progress, following just a goal: improve the life of people around him, help them not to suffer. In attempting to make the world better, healthier, he generously shared the results of his work, as his entire activity was dedicated to the general welfare and not personal acknowledgement.

He was a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Romanian Academy of Scientists and Doctor Honoris Causa of "Ovidius" University in Constanta and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Craiova.

During the years, I encountered his name in numerous national and international medical societies among which the French Association of Surgery (AFC), whose honorary member he was, the European Experimental Surgery Society (EESS), the European Digestive Surgery Society (EDS), the Academy of Sciences of New York, International Gastro Surgical Club (IASG), the Academy of Surgery France, the Balkan Medical Union and an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Moldova.

Prof. Nicolae Angelescu supported and, I can say, represented an element of progress and stability of the Romanian Surgery Society and the 'Surgery' (Chirurgia) magazine, whose chief editor he was between 1995 and 2004.

Prof. Angelescu opposed long and difficult periods, in which the pessimism of the members of the Society could lead to the dissolution or passing forgetfulness, his enthusiasm, optimism and abnegation, initially as a simple member, later on as its Secretary General (1988 - 1995) and President (1995 - 2002), with a decisive contribution to the life and development of the Romanian Surgery Society.

I knew his family closely, the modesty and noble character of their feelings, in which his wife, two wonderful sons and their families formed an union which contributed naturally to what the Professor represented to everyone ... the person

appreciated and loved by those who knew him.

In these times, when aggression and the competitive spirit are omnipresent, and the will for individual assertion is universal, it would seem out of place to praise the example of modesty set by Doctor Nicolae Anghel.

Not modesty, some would say, but honesty.

What is more important than choosing the right word to describe it, is what we leave behind, and for that matter the life and work of Professor Anghel, dedicated to the

development of medical sciences and aiding his peers, should speak for itself.

In his 45 years of activity, as a surgeon, as a teacher and a scientist, he passionately dedicated himself to the profession he chose, with utter commitment to patients, hospital, school, education and science.

His passing away leaves an empty space felt by all those who met and appreciated him.

**Prof. Florian Popa Ph.D**

*“Sf. Pantelimon” Clinical Emergency Hospital Bucharest*