

## *History of Medicine*

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### **Professor Ion Bușu (1921 - 1986)**

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Born on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1921 in the Moroieni, Dambovita county, the Professor was a graduate of the St. Sava National College in Bucharest, class of 1940, and then a graduate of the Medical School in Bucharest, class of 1946. He covered all ranks available to a surgical specialist, from clinical extern to intern, to secondary physician, specialist and then attending surgeon, perfecting his surgical education under the guidance of the greatest masters of Romanian surgery of those times: Prof. Dr. Nicholas Hortolomei, Prof. Dr. C. Constantinescu, Prof. Dr. A. Cosăcescu, Prof. Dr. Traian Nasta, Prof. Dr. Iacob Iacobovici, Prof. Dr. T. Firica, Prof. Dr. Ion Juvara, each leaving their mark on his preparation and personality.

I. Bușu's professional training is closely linked to the name of Professor Nicolae Hortolomei, under whose guidance within his clinic he worked for over 11 years, combining research with surgical activity at the patient's bedside and in the operating room. As senior researcher, head of sector and then Head of the Laboratory of Experimental Surgery at Colțea Surgery Clinic in Bucharest, Professor Bușu led a prodigious activity, addressing a wide range of research subjects of great interest for that period (respiratory and cardiovascular changes induced by the surgical act, portal hypertension, the mechanisms regulating respiration, the effects of anoxia on the nervous system, induced hypothermia), research materialized in over 50 research papers submitted and/or published in specialized journals, both in the country and abroad.

The second milestone in his surgical training and education is represented by the 8 years spent at the Surgery Clinic of Cantacuzino Hospital in Bucharest (1965-1973), where he worked under the guidance of one of the most outstanding personalities of Romanian surgery, Professor Ion Juvara. It was here where he perfected his theoretical and practical surgical training and continued his research activity, while being concerned at the same time with everything involving the organization and leadership of a true school of surgery.

After moving to Craiova, as Associate Professor (1973) and then as Professor (1976) with the First Surgical Clinic, Professor Bușu was Head of the Surgery Department of the Faculty of Medicine. Here he dedicated himself entirely to the organization of surgical education, being rightly considered the founder of the surgery school of Craiova. Armed with deep and thorough theoretical and practical professional knowledge, always bearing in mind the examples of his masters, disciplined, restrained, severe and scrupulous primarily with oneself, full of devotion and compassion in the face of human suffering, Professor Bușu gathered around himself a young and valuable team, which he constantly trained and educated in the spirit of the best traditions of Romanian surgery, a team from which prospective Professors, heads of clinics and surgical disciplines of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova then arose. We only mention here Professors Ion Georgescu, Ion Vasile, Dan Mogoș, Răducu Nemeș, Ion Gugilă, Firmilian Calotă. Endowed with great energy, audacious and courageous surgeon, he approached with great results a wide range of large-scale surgical interventions pertaining to stomach and duodenum pathology, biliary and pancreatic pathology, surgery of the oesophagus, colon and rectum, surgery of the breast and thyroid, etc. Following the example of the University of Medicine in Bucharest, he founded a Laboratory of Experimental Surgery in Craiova as

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well, for training young surgeons in digestive and vascular sutures, as well as for experimental research of structural and functional changes determined by a small intestine patch sutured to the stomach.

He compiled and edited together with his team a surgical pathology course and a notebook of surgery practical seminars, contributing fundamentally to the promotion and development of education in surgery, to improving the students' theoretical training, and to the development of surgical conduct. He insisted on developing skills and approaches of attachment and compassion towards the patient. He triggered a real scientific emulation within the team, materialized in over 100 papers published or communicated during this period, making an important contribution to some major problems approached by surgery, such as hiatal hernias in adults (for which he also developed a personal procedure), subphrenic abscesses, gastroduodenal mucosal prolapse, acute pancreatitis, biliary pathology, etc. He was the author of several monographs with reference value, including the paper "Hiatal Hernias in the Adult," unique in the country, which was greatly appreciated, gaining the Romanian Academy Award of the year 1984. He was a model as a Human Being, as a teacher, as well as a model of honesty and professional dedication.

Through the strong personality of Professor Ion Buşu, the First Surgical Clinic became a methodological forum for the development of surgeons in Oltenia. Professor Ion Buşu was the promoter of numerous conferences and symposiums between counties, each of which constituted an opportunity for the improvement of surgical pathology chapters and for establishing a unitary surgical conduct. Open to discussions, clashes of ideas in the field of promoting practical surgery, based on and synchronized with the development of physiopathological knowledge, he has consistently campaigned for a permanent feedback of the results achieved by the surgical university centres all over the country and, to the extent of access, by those abroad. He was the initiator and supporter of professional contacts, of lucrative meetings with other universities, such as the events organized together with surgery

figures from Timișoara at Băile Herculane, which became at one time a tradition. He was permanently a fervent factor for stimulating the promotion of the clinic's surgical realizations in specialized publications from the country and from abroad, particularly those from France. He proved to be a true mentor, but also a demanding teacher for his students, for young surgeons of the clinic staff in whose training, promotion and valorisation he was totally engaged. Vain, to the extent proper for a strong character shaped by a long and meritorious surgical experience, he was not afraid to express his pride in the qualities and performance of the team he had formed and helped grow. Sometimes at congresses, before other heads of clinics, he presented them with aplomb and love by the familiar appellative "my boys". He knew to appreciate his collaborators, with parsimony, to praise them within bounds, to defend them vigorously, as well as to supervise and guide their abilities in the light of an assumed responsibility, and of his respect for the supreme and unrepeatable value called life. Surgery, the most noble and uplifting profession, gives you wings and space to fly when you have successes, but also racking pain when your failures, some deserved and some not, bend your being and make your soul bleed. The Professor knew, with tact, how to temper the flight, and to soften the brutality of blows, how to get up again and overcome the inner state of pedalling aimlessly, a state called today in psychological terms compassion fatigue.

Strong personality, eminent surgeon and teacher, endowed with great human qualities, head of school of surgery in the Oltenia area, Professor Ion Buşu has left his mark on a whole generation of surgeons, by whom he was loved, cherished and esteemed.

He passed away suddenly in 1986, at the age of 65, the same hot day of July as that on which he was born, closing the circle of a referential existence, and is buried at Bellu cemetery in Bucharest. His memory continues its path in the souls of more and more surgeons and successors of a surgical school trained in the spirit of the responsibility, honesty and professionalism in surgery, all qualities imprinted by Professor Ion Buşu.