

History of Medicine

Chirurgia (2015) 110: 411-412
No. 5, September - October
Copyright© Celsius

Professor Doctor Nicolae Angelescu *(1931-2014)*

T. Burcoş

General Surgery Department, Colţea Clinical Hospital, “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania

The name of the Professor Doctor Nicolae Angelescu is among the greatest Romanian surgeons. He was born on 6th of December 1931, in Rociu village, Argeş county. He graduated middle school in Rociu and in 1950 he graduated the famous National College I. C. Brătianu from Piteşti city.

After his mandatory military service, the young Nicolae Angelescu was admitted to the Medical Faculty of Carol Davila University of Bucharest from which he graduated in 1960. He was one of the top medical students of those times, a position confirmed also by the status of extern and then intern in surgery that he gain through a contest. He made his first steps in the academic career as a preparator in the Urology Clinic of Panduri Hospital, under the guidance of the Professor Doctor Theodor Burghela.

Being a hard worker person and having organizational skills since then, along with his work in the operating room and with the activity of caring for the patients, the young doctor Nicolae Angelescu has also led an intensive scientific activity approaching the top medical subjects of that period. He wrote numerous experimental research papers, completing his activity in 1970 with a PhD thesis called “The treatment of the acute rejection in experimental renal transplant in dog”, having Academician Professor Theodor Burghela as scientific coordinator. His wish for real research was outstanding, he did one year training at the Surgical Research Institute from Nancy, France and he used the knowledges that he gained

there to complete his thesis which was the first one with such a theme in Romania.

From that period of his life he gained many French friends who later became top doctors in France, and he put this situation to good use after 1989, when international professional relations were again possible. He had a fundamental role in giving a French approach to Romanian surgery, and he also facilitated the access of numerous young Romanian surgeons to specialization programmes in France, particularly in the field of minimally invasive surgery.

With the position of university preparator, from 1972 he completes all the teaching levels, becoming a teaching assistant, a “sef de lucrari” and a lecturer at 23 August Hospital (now Saint Pantelimon Hospital), positions gained by a contest. At 23 August Hospital he closely worked with Professor Doctor Pavel Simici.

In February 1984, he became head of the Surgical Department of Colţea Hospital where, in 1992, he acquired the title of University Professor.

During this period, his prodigious scientific activity incarnated in over 400 papers presented at different national and international manifestations and in about 160 papers that were published in prestigious national and international magazines. He wrote and published numerous courses and text-books for students and nurses, 17 speciality monographs and participated in the design and redaction of the Textbook of Surgical Pathology published in 1987, under the supervision of the Professor Doctor Eugen Proca. In 2001, the Textbook of Surgical Pathology, under the supervision of the Professor Doctor Nicolae Angelescu, saw the light of the printing press. This work became widespread and appreciated in the medical world of Romania.

He carried out more than 20,000 surgical interventions, approaching a wide range of surgical pathology. He embraced

Corresponding author: Professor Traean Burcoş
General Surgery Department
Colţea Clinical Hospital
“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and
Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: traeanburcos@yahoo.com

with enthusiasm the laparoscopic surgery, Colțea Hospital being among the first hospitals in the country that began practicing minimally invasive surgery, both laparoscopic and endoscopic.

Taking advantage of the relations that he had with the top French surgeons, he helped many young surgeons to form themselves professionally by facilitating their participation at internships and trainings in France. He led more than 20 doctoral thesis and supervised the clinical training of numerous students and surgical residents.

Through his involvement and his work, the surgical and scientific work at Colțea Hospital developed continuously, and was recognized by the national and international surgical community as well.

Between 1987-1995, he was the general secretary of the Romanian Society of Surgery and the, in the period of 1995-2002, he led this society as president. He was the Editor-in-Chief of The Surgery magazine between 1994-2002.

In the middle of the nineties, in the unsettled period of the academic medical community, Romanian Society of Surgery was falling apart and The Surgery magazine, founded by Thoma Ionescu at the end of the nineteenth century, was approaching failure. Professor Nicolae Angelescu, through his prestige and personality as well as through the enormous amount of work that he did, strengthened the surgical community and gave a new perspective to both the Romanian Society of Surgery and The Surgery magazine, which became one of the most important scientific publications in the country.

He was a member of many national and international scientific societies such as:

- Romanian Society of Surgery;
- Society of Hepato-Bilio-Pancreatic Surgery;
- Society of Phlebology Surgery;
- Romanian Society of Surgical Oncology;
- Balcanic Medical Union;

- European Society of Experimental Surgery;
- French Association of Surgery- Honorary Member;
- European Society of Oncological Surgery;
- EuroSurgery;
- European Society for Traumatology and Emergency Surgery;
- European Society of Digestive Surgery;
- New York Academy of Sciences;
- International Association of Surgeons Gastroenterologists and Oncologists.

His scientific activity was recognised both nationally and internationally. Nationally, he received the title of Professor of Honour of the Faculty of Medicine of Constanța (2000), Doctor Honoris Causa of the Ovidius University of Constanța and of the Medical University of Craiova, a full membership in the Academy of Medical Sciences and in the Romanian Academy of Sciences.

Internationally, he was elected as Member of Honour of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (2003), Member of Honour of the French Association of Surgery, correspondent member of the Academy of Surgery and of the Medical Academy in France.

After the 1989 Romanian revolution, due to his prestige and to his personal connections with members of the French School of Surgery, and on account of his position as a member of the European Academy of Surgery, he made an essential contribution to the reintegration of Romanian surgery in the international surgical life.

Professor Doctor Nicolae Angelescu died on 27th of September 2014 and was buried in Bucharest. He left behind regrets and a big gap in the surgical world as well in the hearts of his friends. Professor Doctor Nicolae Angelescu will always remain in our memory as the tireless mentor and surgeon, gifted with an enormous capacity for work, who always searched to push forward the complex world of Surgery.