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Professor Iuliu Șuteu (1921 – 1995)

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*“A surgeon’s life, and I say it without exaggeration,
is a permanent continuity of significant moments,
lived during every surgery or besides each patient”*

Professor Iuliu Șuteu was born in 1921 in Indianapolis, United States of America, as his parents emigrated in 1913 from Ardeal, Romania. After his family returned in 1926, Iuliu Șuteu attended the military college in Târgu Mureș, and after this, between 1941 – 1946, the University of Medicine from Bucharest.

Professor Șuteu started his medical training with Professor N. Gh. Lupu, Amza Jianu, Gheorghe Olănescu and Nicolae Hortolomei. In 1948 Professor Șuteu finished his doctoral thesis ‘Infiltration with novocaine in acute kidney diseases’, under the supervision of two members of the Romanian Academy, Professor Hortolomei and Professor Olănescu. Between 1945 and 1950 he was assistant professor at the Anatomy and Embryology Department, while working at the same time in the Surgical Department of Professor Hortolomei. In 1946 Iuliu Șuteu married Veronica Șuteu, who was an active member of the Writers Union. Iuliu and Veronica Șuteu had a son Anton, who later became professor at the National

University of Music from Bucharest. Between 1950 and 1952 doctor Șuteu was chief of the surgical department of Military Hospital in Brasov. In 1952 Iuliu Șuteu was appointed senior surgeon at the Central Military Hospital from Bucharest. Between 1954 and 1965 Dr. Șuteu worked as assistant professor of topographical and surgical anatomy in the department headed by Professor I. Th. Riga. An important period for his development, especially as a trauma and emergency surgeon, was between 1953 – 1954, when he took part in the Korean war, alongside Ion Țurui and Agripa Ionescu. During this period of time he performed more than 5000 surgical procedures.

Between 1964 and 1975 Doctor Iuliu Șuteu headed the first surgical department of the Central Military Hospital. In 1968 he visited the surgical departments of Professor Leger, Professor Lorthat-Jacob and Doctor Jacques Hepp. Starting with 1972 he was appointed general of the Romanian army. In 1974, as a professor of surgery he became the head of the surgical department of the Emergency Hospital of Bucharest. Even at that time, the surgical department of the Emergency Hospital of Bucharest was a high-volume one, with more than 6000 surgical procedures per year. Between 1975 and 1985 Professor Iuliu Șuteu was elected Dean of the Military Medicine University. In 1978 Professor Iuliu Șuteu was invited to the United States of America, where he presented three conferences about shock at Cornell University, Walter Reed Hospital from Washington and Saint Antonio Hospital from Houston, Texas. In 1991 he was appointed as a titular member of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

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During his entire career Professor Șuteu had an ongoing avocation for experimental surgery, especially for the research of shock. He used radioactive isotopes, such as Cr51, to diagnose the end-stage phase of the shock. As a result of these studies, professor Iuliu Șuteu published the book 'The shock', translated also in English and Russian languages. This book received the Romanian Academy 'Gheorghe Marinescu' Award. As an innovative person, Doctor Iuliu Șuteu participated in the development of 26 inventions, such as a mobile operating room. As a result of his ongoing clinical and fundamental research, Professor

Iuliu Șuteu presented more than 500 papers at medical congresses, with a continuous support and preoccupation for emergency surgery.

During his entire career, Doctor Șuteu received six military degrees and twelve medals, such as Gold Medal granted by the International Society of Emergency Surgery, in 1979, Milano, Italy. Taking all these achievements into consideration, Professor Doctor Iuliu Șuteu has a place in the prestigious Hall of Fame of Romanian surgeons, as a creator of medical education and innovative surgical techniques, inspiring human feelings into the surgical act.