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Prof. Dr. Petre Andronescu

Adrian Miron¹, Bogdan Mastalier²

Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania

Prof. Dr. Peter Andronescu died prematurely on the 8th of November 1999, in a moment when he was at the height of his career. For many of the readers of "Chirurgia" journal Prof. Andronescu was a colleague and a friend, for many other people - tens of generations of students and surgeons - he was a master, a teacher, an outstanding surgeon, for those thousands of operated patients he used to be a life-saver, and for his own family remained the image of such an exemplary husband and father.

Prof. Dr. Petre Dorin Andronescu, Head of Surgical Department at "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy and also Head of Surgical Clinic of "N. Gh. Lupu" (today Colentina) Hospital, was born on February 2nd in 1935 at Hârșova, Constanța county. He attended high school in Brăila and Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest that he graduated in 1958. Model student, after graduation he raced through all professional hierarchy - both surgical and teaching. He placed himself inside the professional elite of his generation since early student period: was external and then internal physician by competition, then completed by examinations and competitions all professional steps of resident, specialist and senior surgeon - concomitantly with the functions of assistant, lecturer, associate professor and, as a culmination of hierarchy, professor and head of the clinic.

Early passion for anatomy was materialized as a volunteer at the Department of Anatomy of the University where he worked for 17 years. In the period of 1959-1973 was proba-

tioner at the Osteoarticular Surgery Maritime Sanatorium in Eforie Sud and then specialist surgeon at the CFR2 Hospital in Bucharest.

In 1977 he received a scholarship for training in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery in prestigious clinics in Germany (Hamburg, Cologne), where he benefitted from the guidance of Prof. Dr. Pikelmaier and Farthmann. In 1991 he followed a perfection course in endocrine and laparoscopic surgery in Paris, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Yves Chapuis in "Descartes" University. In the last decade he went for information and experience exchange in Surgical Clinics of Paris and Tel Aviv.

His career has meant many years of work, searches and confrontations, finally rewarded by achievements, satisfactions and successes. Equipped with brilliant intelligence and extensive anatomical culture - acquired during the period of many years of voluntarily junior and senior assistantship in Anatomy Department, in surgery he approached a wide and complex range of interventions with the highest degree of difficulty in domain of somatic and visceral surgery, especially in hepatobiliary and pancreatic digestive surgery, with priorities and a great experience in the surgery of the abdominal wall. In the 90s he developed in the Clinic he was leading the pancreatic resection surgery, introducing modern approaches in this regard, such as pancreaticogastric anastomosis after cephalic duodeno-pancreatectomy. In the same period he made the first alloplastic repair of abdominal wall defects. Led by a permanent concern for modern, he approached laparoscopic surgery insisting that all the staff and especially the youth to practice this kind of surgery.

Permanent interested by the new, by confrontations and exchange of the ideas, he participated with a lot of paper works in Surgical Congresses in Paris, London, Berlin, Barcelona, Oslo, Athens, Tokyo etc., from where always

Corresponding author:

Bogdan Mastalier, MD
Carol Davila University of Medicine and
Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania
E-mail: bogdanmastalier@yahoo.com

returned with impressions and new purchases that were shared with the staff and afterwards very soon applied in practice.

However, his scientific concern was evident from early professional youth. He worked passionately in various fields of experimental and clinical research, with personal contributions in many scientific works with morphological or surgical profile. He communicated and published over 200 papers and several monographs, such as:

- "Considerations on corrosion as a method to study blood supply of internal organs" (1955);
- "New data on human morphology and biology" (1957);
- "Systematization tries of liver segmentation" (1957);
- "Intrahepatic bile ducts in relation to liver segmentation" (1957);
- "Angioarchitecture of the peripheral nerves" (1964).

In addition to the works listed above, Prof. Dr. Andronescu also published many other monographs of greater importance. Thus, the paper work about the micro-vascularization of the common bile duct, published in *Anatomischer Anzeiger* (1966), was very well received by both morphologists and surgeons, especially considering that until that time the common bile duct irrigation was studied only macroscopically; this paper work was richly illustrated with microphotographs and inclusively described the paucivascular areas that must be known by surgeons; its importance was underlined by citation of this work inside the paper "Die Arterielle Versorgung des Ductus Choledocus" published by L. Pffringer in *Acta Anatomica* No.3, vol.79 in 1971.

Another important medical work for surgical practice is "Rectal lymphography" published in 1970 in Medical Publishing House. The fatherhood of the method was not recognized, but in a paper work of the collaborators of Prof. Albot do exist referring notes to the first visceral rectal lymphography performed by V. Ranga, P. Andronescu, D. Dragnev and S. David.

From his clinical experience also had arisen the valuable paper "Arterial irrigation of the terminal ileum and its implications in ileal surgery". This study contradicted the classical belief that the terminal zone of the ileum is poorly vascularized and thus contraindicated for anastomoses.

He obtained his PhD in medicine in 1973 with the thesis "The megareter" realized under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Theodor Burghel. For his turn, he guided and led many doctorates. Was mentor and trainer of young physicians, all the students, interns or residents considering as great privilege to work under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Andronescu.

He was a member of numerous national and international surgical societies - among which can be remembered the French Association of Surgeons, the European Society of Surgery, the

International Society of Emergency Surgery and Traumatology.

Prominent personality of medical and academic life, he was member of Professorial Council and Senate of "Carol Davila" UMF, in the 1992-1996 period being member of Management Office of the University Senate as Deputy Scientific Rector.

In the last 4 years of his life he competently led, as President, the Bucharest Branch of Romanian Surgical Society, printing the society sessions with a spirit of debate and ideas confrontation on the whole range of clinical and surgical problems. The National Congress of Surgery elected him in 1998 as President of the Romanian Society of Surgery for the mandate that would have begun in 2000, but the untimely death prevented him enjoy this well-deserved crowning of the efforts of his whole life made in the domain that he was so keen on - surgery.

He had a passion for major surgery, which he practiced with boldness, but skillfully and highly competently. In the last decade, the major concern of Prof. Andronescu was liver and pancreas surgery, treatment of pancreatic cancer and metastatic liver tumors especially in case of colorectal cancers representing fields of favorite approach.

In his last years he made huge efforts to modernize the building and the endowment of the clinic, which has never got to see it completed. However, he realized, by insistence and equally great efforts, the endowment of the clinic, of the operating theaters, with modern equipment for investigation, with modern instruments, with endoscopy and ultrasound laboratories. Unfortunately many other projects started by him remained to be completed by the scions and never to be seen by their promoter. He was inventive, was particularly tenacious and optimistic. Petre Andronescu, towering man literally and figuratively, was optimistic in a contaminant way: in difficult circumstances, not infrequently, in fact common in the lives of surgeons, had a saying - "be sure that we will manage it" - and he always did this not by chance but by competence, skill and boldness. Professor Andronescu was often heard saying "trifles make perfection, but perfection is not a trifle".

He was permanently to-date on all purchases worldwide in the field of surgery and, in analytical and critical spirit, he faced his own experience with statistics, trends and guidelines of all surgical centers worldwide.

During full capacity of work and creation, ruthless fate had interrupted his momentum, work and achievements. For those who have known one, for clinical collaborators, colleagues and friends, for surgeons in many medical centers in the country, for tens of thousands of patients, for his wife and children who he had a cult of love and affectionate for, it remains the memory of the great man and surgeon who was PETRE ANDRONESCU.