



Professor Coman Tănăsescu, M.D., Ph.D.
(23 November 1942 – 29 April 2018)

Recently, after a short and unexpected suffering, Professor Coman Tanasescu, co-chief editor of the Romanian Journal of Internal Medicine and President of the “N.Gh. Lupu” Internal Medicine Foundation, passed into eternity. Professor Coman Tanasescu was an emblematic personality for the golden age of Internal Medicine in Romania. Disciple of the clinical research concept initiated by Academician N.Gh. Lupu and under the solid clinical practical influence of Academician Ion E. Bruckner, Professor Coman Tanasescu represented one of the summits of Internal Medicine in Romania. His subspecialty in Rheumatology, Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases never prevented him from being a zealous advocate of the concept of specializing in Internal Medicine. Professor Coman Tanasescu managed throughout the extent of his medical and academic career to perfectly merge the aptitudes of an astute doctor, an accomplished researcher and an excellent professor.

Professor Coman Tanasescu is an alumnus of the “Carol Davila” Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy (currently the University of Medicine and Pharmacy). After graduating as a valedictorian in 1966, he ascended all the academic ranks, from assistant professor in 1970 to professor in 1999. In the meantime, he was granted the first degree Principal Researcher position, as well as the leadership of the Internal Medicine Institute from 2001 to 2004. From 2004 to 2007 he was the head of “Colentina” Internal Medicine Clinic, and from 1993 until retirement he was the acting chief of the Internal Medicine Department.

Three distinct faces of Professor Tanasescu intertwined through perseverance, dedication and empathy towards the efforts of everybody in his team: the man, the doctor and the researcher. Professor Tanasescu’s scientific contribution was prodigious. He published over 400 scientific papers, two monographs, numerous book

chapters and coordinated over 60 multicentric international studies. In 1969, just one year after virologist Alfred Prince discovered the HBsAg known at that time as “Australia” Antigen, Coman Tanasescu developed for the first time in Romania an original test for the detection of the antigen and the antibodies against the hepatitis B virus, in patients with chronic hepatitis. His PhD Thesis on “Australia” Antigen included original and pioneering data on the hepatitis B viral infection and carriage in people with chronic hepatitis, hematological disease, pregnant women and healthy individuals, and original studies on the effects of corticosteroids on HBV. Between 1996 and 2007 he led a large randomized population study in 10.000 men from Bucharest actively followed-up for 35 years, on the primary prophylaxis of cardiac ischemic disease. Later in life, he founded and led the first national group for the study of extrahepatic manifestation of virus C hepatitis, SEVIC. He had outstanding expertise in antiphospholipid syndrome and inflammatory systemic disease. His scientific activity and professional prestige have been acknowledged by his appointment in the boards of many professional societies, both national as well as European, such as (to name only a few) the European Association for Study of the Liver, the European Federation of Internal Medicine, the Romanian Society of Rheumatology, the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and, certainly, the Romanian Society of Internal Medicine. He received several career excellence awards for his activity in hepatology (2005) and internal medicine (2005, 2006).

Notably, apart from the essential role he played in the progress of the Romanian Journal of Internal Medicine, he was emeritus editor of the Romanian Journal of Hepatology and editorial board member of the Romanian Journal of Gastroenterology and the Romanian Journal of Rheumatology.

Maybe most importantly than all of the above Professor Tanasescu was a beloved teacher, shaping entire generations of valued physicians. He knew like no one other how to get through to his disciples, with remarks that were always gentle and constructive. With his rigorous and visionary approach, he successfully guided all through his career numerous PhD students. He was radiating optimism and positivity and always achieved a perfect balance between the accuracy of the expert and the kindness of the human being.

Farewell Manel; his being has passed into eternity, but his symbol prevails with us.

The Editorial Board of the “Romanian Journal of Internal Medicine”