

OBITUARY

Professor Dan Dermengiu, MD, PhD

Editor of the Romanian Journal of Legal Medicine



We lost our dear friend and colleague professor Dan Dermengiu, the Editor of the Romanian Journal of Legal Medicine, head of the Chair of Legal Medicine and Bioethics, “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, director of the “Mina Minovici” National Institute of Legal Medicine, Bucharest, president of the Romanian Legal Medicine Society, member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences.

He could have a high place in many other specialties because of his great interest for medical science, his intellectual power and abilities but aware of his role and destiny, he chose Legal Medicine to contribute to its development.

A great scientist, a well known researcher with more than 140 scientific papers published in Romania and abroad and over 25 scientific research projects, an analytical mind, objective, open to any scientific subject, he knew how to find the balance between the rational and the sensitive side of his profession, valued by his coworkers both in Romania and in Europe.

His passion for science transcended to the Romanian Journal of Legal Medicine founded by Nicolae Minovici in 1936, a Journal he considered always to be a personal task which he projected to become recognized nationally and internationally.

As editor, with the help of his team, he managed to achieve his goal in 2007 when the Journal was indexed by ISI Thomson Reuters. Nowadays we are the ones to continue his endeavour but also to develop the high rank of the Journal: we know that if we will succeed we will continue his efforts and fulfil his intentions.

He was a prestigious figure in science in Romania and Eastern Europe, awarded with the national “Sanitary Order” in the rank of Commander by the president of Romania in December 2004.

He was a strong defender of human rights, a noble and free spirit acknowledged as such and thus naturally appointed by Romania as an expert member in the Committee of Torture Prevention of the Council of Europe.

He was also a wise leader and a good colleague highly appreciated for the balance he found by managing people and the national network of legal medicine and bringing this specialty closer to humanity and to its social responsibilities. Although legal medicine is a complex field of activity, he knew how to manage situations, how to be close, friendly, encouraging, comforting in need, a source of encouragement for everyone.

He was a positive character and therefore he achieved many friends. He knew how to be generous and forgiving, how to share his passions and thoughts, how to appreciate pleasant moments and so that being in his companionship brought us always an immense comfort. He loved his family immensely.

He was a high educated man, a fan and passionate reader of cartoons books, a passionate and secret artist himself. He often wandered the streets next to rue Gauche among with the “bouquinistes”, searching for the hidden meaning and resemblances. He loved Paris and its secrets which he tried to discover on and on visiting the great city always sharing them with great joy to all his friends.

He showed dedication, responsibility and a true sense of duty that helped him suppress his suffering with great strength of character. He struggled with an unforgiving biological reality, but he did it so in great silence due to his desire to protect his loved ones and to provide even more stability to the legal medicine institution which he served

until his last moments. His achievements made him after more than 15 years of leadership one of the greatest directors of “Mina Minovici” National Institute of Forensic Medicine in Bucharest that the Institute had in his history.

He was undoubtedly a great man: his accomplishments and achievements give him a rightful place in the national scientific heritage and in the history of legal medicine in Bucharest and in Romania. We know that our colleagues in Europe and abroad share with us this tragic loss and we thank them all for that.

In the memory of our best friend please a devout thought and with yours accept a moment of silence to fill up the words we do not know entirely how to express.

It is our duty to take over his beloved projects and to carry them on, always honouring his memory and keeping alive his encouragement.

Dan Dermengiu born April 7th 1957, died July 8th 2016.

George Cristian Curcă

Professor of Legal Medicine and Bioethics

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Editor-in-Chief of the Romanian Journal of Legal Medicine