

## OBITUARY

### Professor Viorel Alexandru Emanuel Panaitescu



Born in Bucharest, in 28<sup>th</sup> October 1938, in a family with medical traditions (his father was the chief epidemiologist of the Central Military Hospital in Bucharest) professor Viorel Panaitescu followed the Dimitrie Cantemir College. Here he studied french language with Professor Belis Alexandru the father of the honorary member of the Romanian Academy Vladimir Belis, later on his colleague and friend and founder President of the Romanian Legal Medicine Society. Between 1955 -1961 he followed the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest at the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

As a young student he was admitted as preclinical intern in 1960 at the Chair of Anatomy of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy where he started progressed in teaching between 1963 - 1966.

He begun specialization in pathology in 1966 preparing for assistant position at the Morphopathology Chair and Legal Medicine Chair. In 1969 he attended the tenure position of assistant to professor at the Morphopathology and Legal Medicine Chair and started his Ph.D. thesis.

He graduated the residency in legal medicine and become a specialist in 1970. He achieve the Ph.D. title in 1973 with the thesis title: ”Hyperlipemia in alcoholic intoxication”.

During 1973 -1980 he was a full assistant to professor at the Anatomy Chair of the “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy. From 1980 he consecrate his life to legal medicine as full assistant, then senior lecturer until 1991, associate professor in 1993 and finally, professor in 1998.

Senior specialist in both legal medicine and pathology from 1990 he applies and was selected from 1991 as the Chief of the Genetic and Identification Department in the “Mina Minovici” National Institute of Legal Medicine in Bucharest.

His name become in a short time famous due to the foundation of the Laboratory of Anthropology in the Department of Genetic and Forensic Identification in the “Mina Minovici” National Institute of Legal Medicine in Bucharest.

He had the idea and the abilities to link his vast knowledge of anatomy with forensic osteology and to

take over with scientific authority the coordination of the forensic osteology and anthropology in our country. He worked during a life time in his laboratory where he studied, researched and write a lot of original papers. He participated to many national and international meetings of legal medicine and antropology and forensic osteology bringing his experience and sharing scientific findings and data with foreign colleagues. He wrote over 300 original articles, chapters in treatises, books in legal medicine, anatomy and forensic osteology and anthropology. He specialized in forensic osteology in France at Brest and Glasgow in UK.

His name is a national brand in forensic osteology in Romania. Forensic osteology and forensic anthropology was founded by this great man in our country. All the legal cases in Romania were submitted throughout his entire life to his lab in the “Mina Minovici” National Institute of Legal Medicine in Bucharest. This is still working out because he succeeded to pass his passion to his disciples.

He taught hundreds of students, transferring his knowledge and his joy for life to young scientists and colleagues. He was a warm person, with an immense humour never to cease, rising up from moments of reflection. He was quite a character and a very beloved person.

In the new building of the National Institute of Legal Medicine Mian Minovici erected in Bucharest during 1987-1989 he founded the Museum and set up and opened it for academic use. (Photo: in the open gate of the Museum). He had all the time a public offer for all interested in legal medicine and forensic osteology. He was as a speaker of great talent having a full amphitheatre every time when he was teaching. More generations of forensic pathologists, professors and colleagues are honoured to have him as a dear friend. We all are indebted to his achievements, prodigious work and scientific contributions. For all these and more than we can express he will be forever in our hearts.



**Mariana Rosu MD, PhD, Prof. George Cristian Curca**