

## PORTRAITS – Personalities of Romanian science and culture

### The anniversary of the renowned pediatrician Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu

*Aniversarea remarcabilului pediatru Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu*

**Cristian Bârsu**

*Abilities and Humanities Department, “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

#### **Abstract**

Our paper is dedicated to the anniversary of Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu, at the age of 75 years. He is appreciated as a prestigious pediatrician, a professor of vocation and a man of vast culture. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu contributed in promoting physical education in children and adolescents. He also ulheld the organisation of the First National Conference entitled “Medicine Applied to Physical Education and Sport” (2013). Since 1995, he initiated and organized the National Congress of Social Pediatrics, where he included topics on the physical education therapy.

**Keywords:** Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu, anniversary, pediatry, physical education.

#### **Rezumat**

Articolul nostru este dedicat aniversării Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu, la împlinirea vârstei de 75 de ani. Este apreciat ca pediatru de prestigiu, profesor universitar de vocație și om de vastă cultură. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu a contribuit la promovarea educației fizice la copii și adolescenți. A sprijinit organizarea primei Conferințe Naționale intitulate „Medicina aplicată la Educație fizică și Sport” (2013). De asemenea, a inițiat și organizat, începând din 1995, Congreșele Naționale de Pediatrie Socială, unde a inclus subiecte despre terapia prin educație fizică.

**Cuvinte cheie:** Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu, aniversare, pediatrie, educație fizică.



Nicolae Miu speaking at the opening of the First National Conference entitled *Medicine Applied to Physical Education and Sport*

The anniversary of a personality who has significantly contributed to the benefit of society is a sign of admiration and a source of joy. It is also a moral duty. This debt is even more obvious if the personality has reached a certain age. Unfortunately, quite frequently, such festive occasions are insufficiently publicized in different journals or on various

radio and television channels.

Nicolae Miu is well known as an eminent pediatrician, a very charismatic professor, a man of profound humanity and integrity, a great soul and an intellectual having a vast culture.

Many readers of this journal know that over the

*Received:* 2018, January 7; *Accepted for publication:* 2018, January 23

*Address for correspondence:* Abilities and Humanities Department, “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, 23 Gheorghe Marinescu Str., Cluj-Napoca, Romania

*E-mail:* cristian.barsu@umfcluj.ro

*Corresponding author:* Cristian Bârsu cristian.barsu@umfcluj.ro

*https://doi.org/10.26659/pm3.2018.19.1.63*

Copyright © 2010 by “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Publishing

decades, Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu has participated in various medical and social activities, but his involvement in promoting physical education in children and adolescents is less known. His interest in this area was influenced by the model of Prof. Dr. Iuliu Hațieganu (1885-1959), who was the first dean and organizer of the Romanian Faculty of Medicine in Cluj.

In addition, the readers of this journal know that Nicolae Miu was a member of the presidium and also a moderator of the First National Conference entitled "Medicine Applied to Physical Education and Sport". This event was initiated by Prof. Dr. Traian Bocu - who ran the Physical Education Department of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj-Napoca. The conference was held in Cluj-Napoca, on 30-31 May 2013.

Another proof of Professor Miu's interest in physical education is that he included physical education therapy in the topics of the National Congresses of Social Pediatrics, which were initiated by Prof. Miu himself in 1995 and developed in the following years.

The support given by Prof. Miu - as a Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca (between 2000 and 2008) - to the Physical Education Department of the Faculty should not be forgotten.

In this context, some significant data from Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu's biography are necessary in order to outline his personality and his prestige.

He was born in Turda, on 23 October 1942. After the end of the Second World War, he and his mother - Elena - settled in Cluj. Unfortunately, at that time his father - Nicolae - was a prisoner of war. His father returned to Cluj only in 1949, after being released from a camp situated in the former Soviet Union.

After this episode, the child Nicolae developed in a particularly favorable family environment for his later training, because his father was a librarian and his mother was a teacher. Nicolae Miu was a pupil at the "Emil Racoviță" High School in Cluj. This was an institution of great value, being the continuation of the Cluj University Pedagogical Seminar (during the interwar period).

He completed his medical training at the Section of Pediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj. Throughout this period (1960-1966), he had prestigious professors such as: Ion Manta (1900-1979) in biochemistry, Gheorghe Badenski (1901-1979) in microbiology, Octavian Fodor (1913-1976) in internal medicine and Iuliana Țârlea (1901-1978) in pediatrics (\*\*\*, 2002). The most important contribution to Miu's formation as a remarkable pediatrician was that of Prof. Octavia Mărgineanu.

Nicolae Miu graduated from the faculty in 1966, obtaining the "Degree of Merit". He followed all the steps of the academic career at the same clinic in Cluj - the Second Pediatric Clinic. He was a resident between 1968 and 1971. Then, in 1971, he was appointed university assistant lecturer. He became doctor in medicine in 1974.

In 1974 and 1975 he was a French government scholar and worked at L'Hôpital des Enfants Malades in Paris (Moldovan, 2016).

From 1980 to 1988 he was lecturer. In 1988 he was promoted to associate professor. In 1992 he was advanced

to full professor.

In the health care field, Prof. Nicolae Miu managed to become a consultant doctor in three specialties: pediatrics - in 1980, gastroenterology - in 1994 and diabetes, nutrition and metabolic diseases - in 1999.

Throughout his career, he had different leading positions: vice-dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj (1990-1992), vice-rector of "Iuliu Hațieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy (1992-1996) and, subsequently, dean of the Faculty of Medicine (2000-2008) at the same University. He was also president of the Cluj College of Physicians (1997-2001), president of the National (Romanian) Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology, president of the National (Romanian) Society of Social Pediatrics, vice-president of the National (Romanian) Society of Pediatrics, etc. It should be added that he is a member of the French Society of Pediatrics and a member of the Francophone Group of Pediatric Gastroenterology.

Prof. Dr. Miu's scientific activity is vast and complex, consisting of numerous books and papers. Among his books, the following should be mentioned: "Oligoelements in Biology and Pathology" (co-author Octavia Mărgineanu, 1984), "Liver Pathology of the Child" (in collaboration with Georgeta Fărcaș, 1992), "Bronchial Asthma of the Child - Actualities and Perspectives" (in collaboration with G. Sur, 1996), "Von Willebrandt Disease" (co-author G. Sur, 1996), "Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis" (having the same co-author, 1996), "Therapeutic Strategies in some Metabolic and Digestive Diseases in Children" (co-author Antonia Popescu), "Digestive Tract Malformations in Children" (co-workers H. Gocan and L. Marți), "Chronic Hepatitis of the Child" (1999), "Chronic Hepatitis of the Child: progresses in diagnosis and treatment" (co-authors R. Badea and Luiza Burac, 1999), etc. A culmination of the scientific activity elaborated by Prof. Miu in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the "Adolescent Medicine Treatise" (1999), of which he is an editor and author. It was a premiere in the Romanian medical literature.

Nicolae Miu had the merit of extending the facilities of the Second Pediatric Clinic, by constructing a new and modern building. Another achievement was the foundation of the Department of Children's Kidney Dialysis (1994), which was a premiere in Romania. He also created the Medical Center for Adolescents.

As a dean, he had many significant achievements. An example is the introduction of a new subject - Behavioral Sciences. For this purpose, in 2004, the homonymous course was published under his editorship. It was the first textbook in this specialty published in Romania.

To complete Nicolae Miu's portrait, it would be necessary to recall his high cultural level, evidenced by his frequent participation in the "Medicine, Art and Culture" Galleries (Bocu, 2017). Having an intense passion and respect for opera, he wrote the book entitled "Memories from the hall of the Cluj Opera House".

Prof. Dr. Nicolae Miu was decorated by the President of Romania with the "Sanitary Merit" Order in the rank of Grand Officer in 2004. The same year, the President of France - Jacques Chirac - decorated Prof. Miu with the National Order of Merit of France in the rank of Knight, for reinforcing Franco-Romanian relations in medicine (Damian, 2008).

---

**References**

- Bocu M. Galele Medicină, Artă, Cultură la aniversarea de 20 de ani: învăluite de o poezie caldă și de o aură proprie... (The twentieth anniversary of Medicine, Art and Culture Galleries, framed by a warm poetry and an own aura...). Available online from <http://ziarulfaclia.ro/galele-medicina-arta-cultura-la-aniversarea-de-20-de-ani-invaluite-de-o-poezie-calda-si-de-o-aura-proprie/>, 2017. Accessed in December 2017.
- Damian H. Cavalerul de la Pediatrie (The Knight of Paediatrics). Available online from <http://www.cotidianr.ro/cavalerul-de-la-pediatrie-8565.php#.Wnyzg7gxFh8>, 2008. Accessed in December 2017.
- Moldovan F. Profesorul dr. Nicolae Miu, o viață închinată medicinei, din dragoste pentru micii săi pacienți (Professor Dr. Nicolae Miu, a life dedicated to medicine, out of love for his young patients). Available online from <https://www.ziardecluj.ro/profesorul-dr-nicolae-miu-o-viata-inchinata-medicinei-din-dragoste-pentru-micii-sai-pacienti>, 2016. Accessed in December 2017.
- xxx. Fundația „Octavian Fodor”. Medici și farmaciști de seamă ai începutului mileniului (The “Octavian Fodor” Foundation. Physicians and Pharmacists at the Beginning of Millenium). “Iuliu Hațieganu” Med Univ Publ House, Cluj-Napoca, 2002, 42.