

**Editorial****IN MEMORIAM - PROF. PETRU MATUSZ, MD, PHD (1956-2021)****Delia E. Zahoi***Department of Anatomy, University “Victor Babes” of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara, Romania*

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021, the professor, doctor, anatomist and our colleague Petru Matusz passed away.

He was born on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1956 in the town of Faget, where he attended primary school and then high school. From a young age, he wanted to become a doctor and his dream came true in 1982, when he graduated from the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timisoara. After graduating, he started his activity as a General Practitioner at the No.1 County Clinical Hospital in Timisoara.

In 1986 he began to specialise in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and in 1994 became a senior doctor in the same specialty, at the County Clinical Hospital's Clinic for Burns, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Throughout his career, Dr. Matusz continuously perfected and expanded his skills in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery, dealing with surgical treatment of burns, hand and forearm surgery, as well as peripheral vascular and nervous microsurgery.

He was a member of several scientific associations: the Scientific Society of Burns and Plastic Surgery, the Romanian Association of Plastic Surgeons, the Romanian Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, the Romanian Society of Ambulatory Surgery, the Romanian Society of Phlebology.

He was also actively involved in the activity of the Red Cross, as president of the Timisoara branch and a member of the National Council of the Romanian National Red Cross Society, from which he received a Diploma of Recognition in 2006.

While still a student, he began to love the field of Anatomy. In 1984 he joined the University's Anatomy Department, initially as an intern and then advancing his academic career to become a Professor in 1998.

As a professor of anatomy, he contributed to the formation of almost forty generations of doctors, bringing the subject matter to life and teaching with great pleasure and passion. Always informed with the latest research and developments, disciplined, with a lot of enthusiasm and with an engaging style, he managed to make his lectures of real delight for students, piquing their interest in the study of this field. An experienced guide and role model, he was loved by his students and awarded the title of “Professor Bologna” in 2011.

Though he taught all aspects of human anatomy, Professor Petru Matusz was most passionate about the topographic and clinical aspects of the discipline, considering that they best reflect the strong link between anatomy and medical practice. Continuing the tradition of the Anatomy Department from Timisoara, he developed and improved techniques for corrosion casting. His research focused on the study of the angio- and ductal elements of the parenchymal organs, especially the liver. Studies of hepatic vasculo-ductal elements, and implicitly those of hepatic

segmentation are particularly useful in performing resection and liver transplant surgeries.

Throughout his career, Professor Matusz was not only a passionate researcher, but also an accomplished coordinator, supervising numerous undergraduate theses of his students, and since the year 2000 PhD candidates as well. He also coordinated as a director, or as a member - research teams in several research projects and clinical trials.

He was an important representative of his beloved science both locally and abroad, participating in numerous national and international congresses and symposia. He constantly campaigned for the international recognition of the Romanian anatomy research, particularly that from Timisoara. Highlights of his work championing and celebrating this research include organising the Eleventh European Congress of Anatomy, as well as the XVII and XX editions of the International Symposium on Morphological Sciences in Timisoara.

Professor Matusz was distinguished by a multitude of achievements and recognitions at national and international level. He was awarded by the Romanian Society of Anatomists with the Diploma of Excellence and the Nicolae Kretzulescu Medal. He received the title of "Honorary Professor" of the "Ovidius" University of Constanța, the Medal - UMF Târgu-Mureș - 60 years since its establishment and the Honorary Diploma from The University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babeș" Timișoara, on its' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Internationally, he obtained: Organizing Committee Award - 7th Bienal Congress of ASHBPS and 2nd Congress of Indian Section of HPBA, Chennai, India, La Frontera University Award, Temuco, Chile - V Congress of Anatomy of the Southern Cone, XXIV Chilean Congress of Anatomia, XL Congreso Argentino de Anatomia, Temuco, Chile, "The Best Poster" - V Russian Congress of Anatomists, Kazan, The Russian Federation, the award „Leonadro da Vinci - International Committee on Symposia on Morphological Sciences, Best Overall Poster Presentation - Australian and New Zealand

Association of Clinical Anatomy - 2009 Annual Meeting.

He received the titles of Honorary Member of the Argentine Association of Clinical Anatomy, "Illustrious Visitors" - Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Facultad de Medicina, Argentina, Visiting Professor - St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies, Member - Board of Official Members and Delegates of the International Committee on Symposia of Morphological Sciences (ICSMS).

Professor Matusz was, par excellence, one of the people endowed with a bright and tireless mind, along with the diligence to bring ideas into practice. His scientific and organizational qualities recommended him for holding important positions at the "Victor Babeș" University of Medicine and Pharmacy. He was head of the Anatomy-Embryology Department in 2015-2021, Vice-Rector for Scientific Research, Director of the Research Department and Grant Management, Member of the Council for Doctoral Studies. In 2013 he became a Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences, and in 2015 he held the position of Secretary of the Timișoara Branch.

The artefacts of his long and fruitful research career speak for themselves: 174 papers, 202 abstract papers, over 100 articles in specialized journals. As a first author and co-author, he wrote 51 monographs and 53 chapters in treatises and monographs.

He has been a member of the editorial staff and a reviewer at several prestigious national and international journals, such as: Experimental Medical-Surgical Research, Research and Clinical Medicine. The European Journal of Innovative, Integrative and Translational Medicine, Clinical Anatomy, Folia Anatomica and the Argentine Journal of Clinical Anatomy.

Aside from the artefacts of his research, Professor Dr. Petru Matusz left behind the memory of a man who marked, often decisively, the lives and careers of others. His life's work remains a model for students, PhD candidates, as well as fellow academics and surgeons.



## PHOTOS ADDED BY EDITORS (Professors Ivan Varga and Susana Biasutto)



2008 – International Symposium of Morphological Sciences, Timisoara, Romania. Professors Susana Biasutto and Petru Matusz



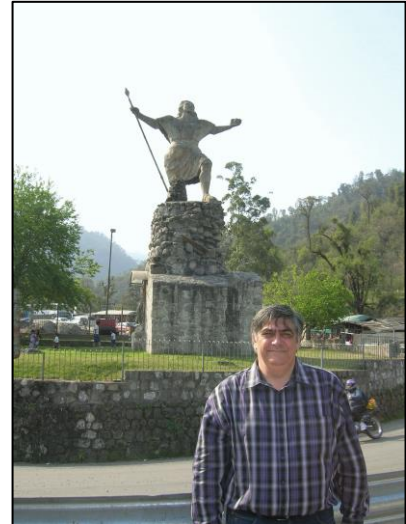
2011 – National University of Tucumán, Argentina. Prof. Petru Matusz was distinguished as Illustrious Professor



2011 – II Argentine Congress of Clinical Anatomy, Tucumán. Prof. Petru Matusz with students from the National University of Cordoba.



2011 – Professors Petru Matusz, Raul Beltramino (Argentina) and Geoff Meyer (Australia).



2011 – Aborigen's monument, Tucumán, Argentina



2011 – II Argentine Congress of Clinical Anatomy. From left to right: Susana Biasutto, Ivan Varga, Marian Adamkov, English interpreter, Petru Matusz and Geoff Meyer.



2011 – Tafi del Valle, Tucumán. From left to right: Petru Matusz, Geoff Meyer, Ivan Varga and Marian Adamkov