

## Personal view

# ROMANIAN SURGICAL SCHOOLS AND THEIR MASTERS

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### Abstract

*The presentation is reviewing historically the Romanian schools of surgery.*

**„The concept of surgical school gathers the tutorial institution and the team of students”** and becoming surgeons which are studying, experimenting and performing surgery under the supervision of an outstanding surgeon, with prominent character, teaching skills and exemplar morality, being able to guide, to support and objectively evaluate each of them.

*The surgical school creators and their outstanding students are listed, some of them continuing the training in the same clinic or becoming creators of other schools.*

*Article follows the chronology of Romanian surgery, highlighting the contribution of various schools and surgeons to the development of surgical disciplines in Romania.*

*The merits in scientific innovations and imagining new surgical approaches and procedures are taken into account, national and international contribution to promoting the national values and importance of students trained by each of the surgical personalities, beginning with Kretulescu N., A. Fatu, N. Turnescu and continuing with Th. Ionescu, G. Asachi, C.D. Severeanu N. Hortolomei and T. Burghel, together with other school formers.*

**Keywords:** *medicine history, Romanian medical schools, tutoring masters of surgery, „Coltea” medical school; university chairman*

### Rezumat

*Articolul face o prezentare istorică a școlilor chirurgicale românești.*

Conceptul de “școală în chirurgie” cuprinde instituția formatoare și echipa de elevi” și chirurghi în devenire care studiază, experimentează și operează sub îndrumarea unui chirurg eminent, cu personalitate marcantă, aptitudini didactice și morală exemplară, care îi ghidează, îi susține și îi apreciază obiectiv. Sunt enumerați creatorii de școală chirurgicală și elevii eminenți ai acestora, parte din ei continuând

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*activitatea de formare în aceleași clinici sau devenind creatori ai altor școli.*

*Articolul urmează de fapt cronologia chirurgiei românești, reliefând aportul diferitelor școli și chirurghi la dezvoltarea disciplinelor chirurgicale în România.*

*Sunt luate în considerare meritele în inovații științifice și imaginarea de noi procedee și abordări chirurgicale, aportul la promovarea internă și internațională a valorilor autohtone precum și importanța elevilor formați de către fiecare din personalitățile chirurgicale prezentate în cele ce urmează, începând cu N. Kretzulescu, A. Fătu, N. Turnescu și continuând cu Th. Ionescu, G. Asachi, C.D. Severeanu, N. Hortolomei și T. Burghel, împreună cu ceilalți creatori de școală formați de aceștia.*

**Cuvinte-cheie:** *Istoria medicinei, Școli medicale românești, creatori de școală chirurgicală, Școala medicală “Colțea”*

**Motto:** *“We are what we are standing for due to our formation”*

Th. Burghel

## Introduction

The early beginning of surgical procedures on the territory of our country starts in the late Neolithic period, proved by the trepanned skulls, consolidated fractures and various primitive surgical instruments discovered by archaeological diggings on several sites.

Middle ages introduced the surgical practice of “surgeon barbers” and continued empirical methods by “feldchers” (sub-surgeons) for some centuries.

Romanian surgery started its development formally at the end of 17<sup>th</sup> century with the arrival of doctors graduating foreign medical schools and with the establishment of the first hospital – Coltea (in 1704) in Bucharest and St. Spiridon (in 1731) in Iassy, being true “Alma Mater” of Romanian medicine.

First attempts to organize medical schools in the Romanian Principates took place in the first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century when the “school of minor Surgery” was founded in 1842 in Colțea hospital by *Nicolae Kretzulescu* (1812-1890), the first Romanian graduated doctor in medicine in Paris followed by the foundation of “Gregorian Institute” and of the “School for midwives” in 1852 in Iassy by *Anastase Fatu* (1816-1880).

The scientific bases for the medical university formation in Romania were set by *Carol Davila* (1828-1890), at the command of the prince Barbu Știrbei, in order to organize the military sanitary service. Davila founded the National School of Medicine and Pharmacy in 1857 in Bucharest, which became later, in 1869 the Faculty of Medicine. Its first dean was *Nicolae Turnescu* (1819-1890).

In Iassy, the faculty of Medicine was founded in 1879, the first dean being *Leon Scully* (1853-1912).

Only after that one can speak about the first medical schools in Romania.

**The concept of “surgical schools”** aims to achieve the complete and complex formation of surgeons based on the available knowledge. This needs a scholar institution, a master and a bunch of scholars to be able to promote school’s values: