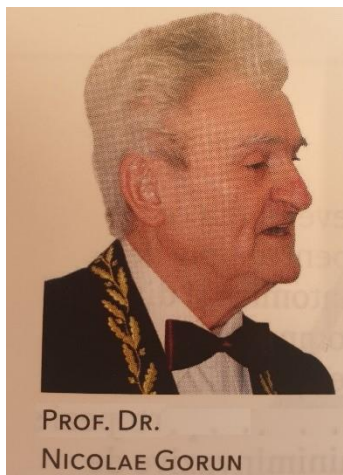


## Opening speech at “The XIIIth Congress of the Romanian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology (SOROT)”, October 19-22, 2021

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Between October 19-22, 2021, in very special conditions (Coronavirus 19 pandemic), the XIII<sup>th</sup> SOROT Congress took place online, with a full success and unanimous appreciation.

Perhaps more than ever, it is now necessary to remember some very important moments in the history of this medical specialty, eminently conservative and restorative, which deals with the treatment of injuries of the support and movement apparatus (Junghans) of genetic causes and mesological (physical, mechanical, chemical and biological factors) (Draper's peristasis).

In the broad field of orthopedics, osteoarticular trauma (vertebral, thoracic, pelvic and limb) is included. Muscle, joint, ligament, tendon, vascular and nerve injuries must be included in limb injuries. In turn, injuries to the pelvis, bony chest and spine can also include injuries to the organs they harbor.

Obviously, these associated injuries can only be solved by complex teams.

The history of orthopedics and osteoarticular traumatology is multimillennial in chronological dimension and marked by numerous events and personalities.

On prehistoric skeletons, sequelae of fractures, bone tumors, tuberculosis, Paget's disease, etc. were found. Sequelae from various bone diseases and fractures have been found on mummies in Egyptian graves (Mega el Dar Cemetery). In the oldest collection of laws, the Hammurabi Code (1792-1750 BC), there are laws regarding the reward that the bone surgeon must receive in case of success, as well as the forms of sanction for the failure of the operation or the death of the patient.

Important evidence has been brought to Persia, China, India, Egypt, Greece (with the famous medical schools of Rhodes, Kos, and Knidos). The great Hippocrates left to posterity an extensive work on fractures and dislocations, congenital osteoarticular deformities, such as congenital crooked foot, congenital hip dislocation, kyphosis and scoliosis, as well as many other acquired

lesions. After the conquest of Greece by the Romans, many valuable students of the Greek medical school went to Rome, where they created an excellent medical school, through Celsus, Soranus, Rufus, Antyllus, Galien, etc. In turn, the Arab school, with the great Avicenna, made important contributions to the progress of orthopedics.

Numerous concerns have followed over the centuries, which have led to important advances in the evolution of orthopedics and osteoarticular trauma, related to special personalities in the history of this medical specialty.

Obviously, in Romania, the historical stages were the same. Since the time of the primitive and slaveholding order, elements have been preserved, which are part of the history of orthopedics and osteoarticular traumatology in our country: skulls with trepanations from the Bronze Age, scalpel and scissors from the Dacian times. In some museums in the country, we find small surgical instruments, scalpels and tweezers.

In many places, empirical surgeons practiced reducing fractures and dislocations, caring for patients with wounds and bone infections, and correcting various bone deformities.

Towards the end of the Middle Ages, apprentice barber-surgeons trained in small surgery and current traumatology also appeared in our country.

The rich experience of Romanian orthopedists fully contributes to the progress of the specialty and to the exchange of opinions and initiatives with specialists from abroad, through wide participation in congresses, conferences, symposia, and training courses.

A very important role in the development of orthopedics and traumatology in the world and obviously in Romania played the specialized societies, magazines, and specialized books, and the ideas and passion of some personalities, which marked this history.

The idea of forming an international orthopedic society with a scientific bulletin

was launched in 1913 by V. Putti, H. Spitzzy, R. Lovett and R. Jones.

However, the First World War and the death of R. Lovett postponed this moment, that was resumed by V. Putti and F. Albee ("energetic orthopedist").

On October 10, 1929, 21 renowned orthopedic surgeons from 12 countries founded the International Society of Orthopedic Surgery (SICO). The inaugural meeting took place at the Hotel Le Crillon in Paris. From the photo of the participants and the diagram next to it, two participants are missing, Rocher from Bordeaux and Delchef from Brussels. The tenth in the first row, from left to right, is the great Romanian surgeon from Colentina Hospital, Professor Ion (Iancu) Jianu, a brilliant student of professors C.D. Severeanu and Toma Ionescu (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).

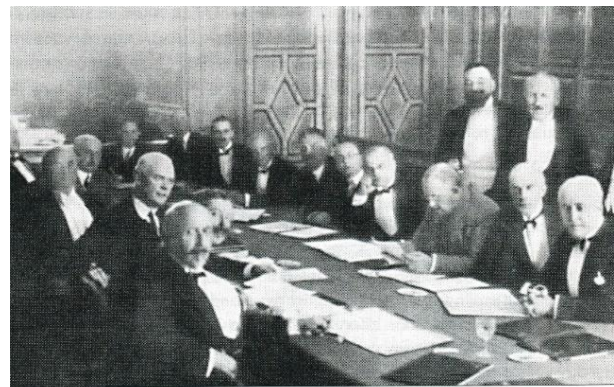


Figure 2. Founding members of SICOT

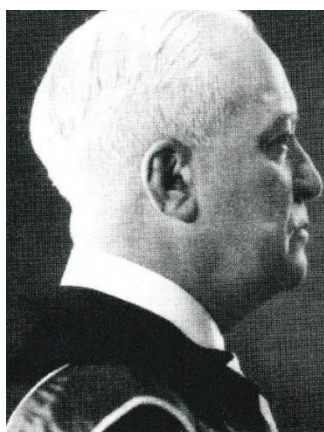


I. Jianu (1880-1972)

Figure 3. I. Jianu

Also in 1929, in Bucharest, Victor Gomoiu founded the "Society for the History of Medicine", an initiative vigorously supported by the same Iancu Jianu, together with Severeanu and Cantacuzino. Iancu Jianu was one of the founders of the Balkan Medical Union.

The first SICO Congress was held in Paris in 1930 and was chaired by Sir R. Jones. At the Congress of Rome in 1936, at the suggestion of V. Putti, SICO also incorporated osteoarticular traumatology, becoming SICOT. Fred Albee, a friend of the future academician Alexandru D. Rădulescu, launched the idea of a SICOT magazine, and the famous French orthopedist R. Merle d'Aubigné, through special efforts, created this magazine, entitled "International Orthopaedics" (Fig. 4, Fig. 5).



Vittorio Putti (1880–1940)

Figure 4. V. Putti

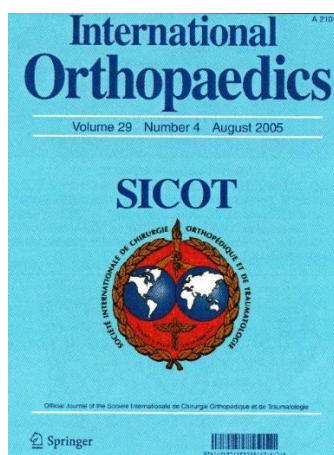


Figure 5. International Orthopaedics

World War I brutally disrupted SICOT. However, it was resumed and gradually expanded, but for 40 years its congresses were held only in Europe. It was not until 1969 that the SICOT Congress was held in New York. At this congress, Iancu Jianu was awarded the title of honorary member and the silver medal.

From that moment, Romanian orthopedics entered the perimeter of international orthopedics, many Romanian orthopedists being active members of the International Society of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology (SICOT).

In 1921, after the scandalous separation from I. Iacobici, Al. D. Radulescu set up in Cluj, in an asylum for the blind, the first orthopedic hospital of the Ministry of Health ("Regina Maria" Hospital), at first with 60 beds, then with 120 beds, well-endowed and especially appreciated by Fred Albee, a distinguished professor of orthopedics in New York, who visited him. This hospital was inaugurated in 1923 by Queen Mary (Fig. 6, Fig. 7, Fig. 8).

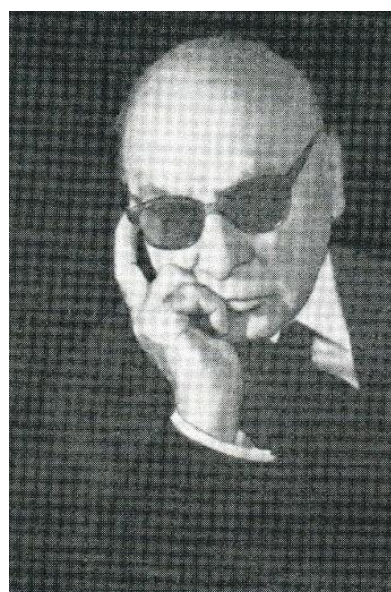


Figure 6. Al. D. Radulescu





Figure 7. "Queen Mary" Children's Orthopedics and Surgery Hospital in Cluj (1921)



Figure 8. Inauguration of the Orthopedic and Children's Surgery Hospital, in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Mary in Cluj (1923).

In Cluj, on May 26, 1935, Al. Rădulescu, together with 30 other specialists from the country, founded the "Romanian Orthopedic Society", the first company in this specialty with a status of 25 articles. Among the founders there are I. Trosc, S. Țovaru, Alice Rădulescu, Gabriela Dragoteanu, I. Ghiulamila, B. Susan, F. Gotlieb, I. Marian, C. Andreoiu, I. Zeana, A. Iancu, I. Plăcișteanu.

I. Balăcescu was nominated and elected honorary president, and the Steering Committee was composed of the president Al. D. Rădulescu, general secretary B. Susan, two

meeting secretaries: Gabriela Dragoteanu and M. Sfărăială, one cashier and one librarian.

The company carried out a rich activity on organizational, professional, and scientific lines, and in the *Journal of Orthopedics and Pediatric Surgery*, founded by Al. Radulescu in 1927, numerous valuable works were published. Unfortunately, this magazine has stopped appearing since 1938.

Al. D. Radulescu worked in Cluj, with a very well-trained and enthusiastic team, until 1940, when, after the transfer of Northern Transylvania, he moved to Bucharest, with some of his collaborators (Bartolomeu Susan, Cornel Doboșiu, Gabriela Dragoteanu, who became Broșteanu, after marriage, Alice Rădulescu, former Lăzărescu, Ioan Gaftoiu and Ștefan Buzdugan). They started their activity in the "Love of People" Hospital (Caritas) in Nerva Traian Street. The hospital was then moved to Cotroceni, in 1945, in the former royal stables and became the Inner Area Hospital 303. Radu Ghiulamila, the son of Ion Ghiulamila, the first orthopedic surgeon in Romania, also joined the team.

In 1948, although he was 62 years old and with his pension file prepared, Al. D. Radulescu was appointed professor of orthopedics at the Brâncovenesc Hospital, within the Institute for the Improvement and Specialization of Physicians and Pharmacists (I.P.S.M.F.), whose first rector was. Mr. Dimitriu became a professor of medical clinic at the "Floreasca" Hospital. In 1955, at the exceptional recommendation of the professors Nicolae Hortolomei and Ștefan S. Nicolau, Al. D. Rădulescu became a full member of the Romanian Academy.

In the Brâncovenesc Hospital, he carried out a rich operative and scientific activity, creating over the years a valuable collective of specialists, most of them becoming department heads and teachers all over the country. He wrote the first book on bone grafts and transplants, the first book on minor surgery and surgical propaedeutics, the first treatise on surgical orthopedics, the first monograph on scoliosis, the first monograph on pseudarthrosis, and numerous other monographs and papers. He described several

signs and syndromes in orthopedic diseases, imagined orthopedic instruments, a surgical table that bore his name. He insisted on the need to establish an orthopedic discipline in Romanian medical education, which has been achieved throughout the country, both in state and private education (Tomoaia's contribution to Cluj history of orthopedics). In several works dedicated to this great orthopedist, I emphasized the fact that, through all his medical activity, he must be considered the creator of modern Romanian orthopedics and a great headmaster.

In the period 1935-1989, the Orthopedic Society was led by Al. D. Radulescu (1935-1967), for a long time, then by D. Vereanu (1967-1973), A. Denischi (1973-), Gh. Floareş for a period of 5 years.

On March 31, 1990, immediately after the revolution, at the University Emergency Hospital in Bucharest, the meeting for the establishment of the new orthopedic society, the Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology (SOROT), took place. The representatives of the orthopedic clinics and the important sections in the country elected the management committee and the new president, I. Dinulescu (1990-1995).

At the suggestion of Professor A. Denischi, as editor-in-chief of the orthopedic magazine, N. Gorun was elected, and the first issue appeared in 1991.

The SOROT leadership was followed by D.M. Antonescu (1995-1997), N. Georgescu (1997-1999), N. Gorun (1999-2001), Al. Pop (2001-2003), A. Fircă (2003-2005), Ö. Nagy (2005-2007), D. Stănculescu (2007-2009), D. Poenaru (2009-2011), D. Lucaciu (2011-2013), C. Cirstoiu (2013-2015), R. Prejbeanu (2015-2017), Gh. Popescu (2017-2019) and T. Băţagă (2019-2021).

The practical and research orthopedic activity took place, first of all, in the capital, in the two well-known hospitals at that time (Fig. 9, Fig. 10).



Figure 9. Brancovenesc Hospital



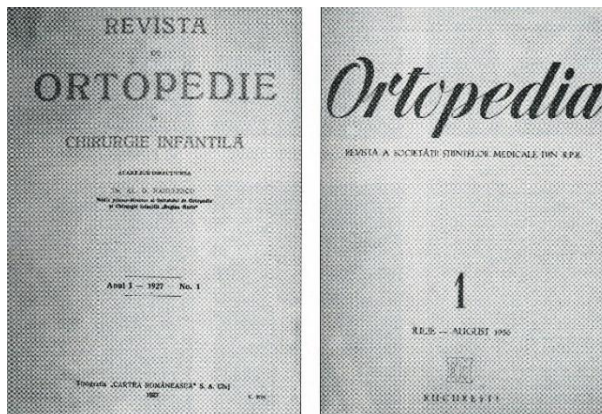
Figure 10. Foisor Orthopedic Hospital

Along with Al. Rădulescu, among the great missing figures who contributed to the development of orthopedics and osteoarticular traumatology, in Romania, we mention C. Andreoiu, Cl. Baci, D. Baci, I. Baer, I. Bălăcescu, D. Berceanu, P. Borş, Gh. Buzescu, V. Caracotta, D. Caramzulescu, Al. Călin, V. Călinescu, E. Christidi, Gh. Cihodaru, C. Ciugudean, V. Climescu, A. Cosăcescu, N. Covali, E. Crişan, D. Cuper, A. Denischi, I. Dinulescu, C. Doboşiu, I. Dobre. Şt. Dorobanţu, A. Dorthheimer, I. Fazakas, Th. Fircă, Gh. Floareş, A. Füllop, I. Georgescu, N. Ghergulescu, E. Gherman, I. Ghiulamila, F. Gotlieb, I. Grigorescu, At. Ianăş, V. Iliescu, M. Ionescu, A. Jianu, I. Jianu, E. Juvara, C. Leonte, Olivera Lupescu, Tr. Maciu, I. Marian, O. Marian, A. Marinescu, O. Medrea, T. Dicescu, Gh. Meghea, Gh. Mişca, Tr. Nasta, I. Negrea, Gh. Niculescu, I. Olaru. M. Olteanu, N. Orfanu, P. Panaitiu, Gh. Panoza, Al. Pesamosca, P. Petrescu, D. Pintilie, I.



Prăgoiu, M. Priboianu, C. Radu, N. Robănescu, E. Rubeli, N. Rusu-Ardeleanu, I. Ruşdea, I. Sgarbură, Al. Simionescu, I. Stavrache. M. Socolescu, C. Stănescu, B. Susan, I. Szava, Th. Şora, T. Teodoriu, D. Tomescu, P. Topa, O. Troianescu, I. Trosc, A. Trosc, B. Ţurcanu, I. Ududec, A. Varna, D. Vereanu, A. Voinea, Corneliu Petru Zaharia, et al.

Over the years, the experience of Romanian orthopedists was published in the Journal of Orthopedics and Pediatric Surgery (Cluj) (1927-1938), Orthopedics (Bucharest) (1956-1957), Problems of orthopedics, traumatology and functional recovery (Timișoara) (1967-1971), Orthopedics and Trauma Journal (Bucharest) (1991-2012) and ASORIS Journal (Timișoara) (Fig. 11, Fig. 12, Fig. 13, Fig. 14, Fig. 15).



Revista de ortopedie și chirurgie infantilă nr. 1/1927 (Cluj)

Ortopedia nr. 1/1956

Figure 11. Journal of Orthopedics and Pediatric Surgery (Cluj), Orthopedics (Bucharest)

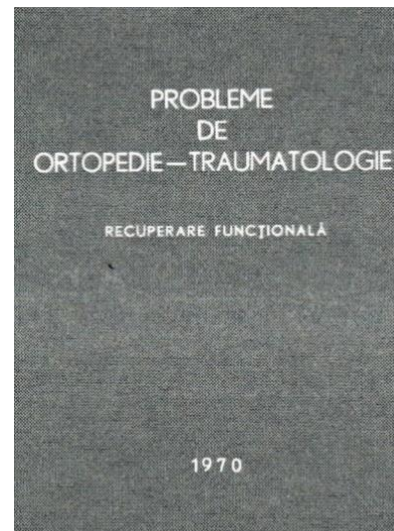


Figure 12. Problems of orthopedics, traumatology and functional recovery (Timișoara)



Figure 13. ASORIS Journal (Timisoara)

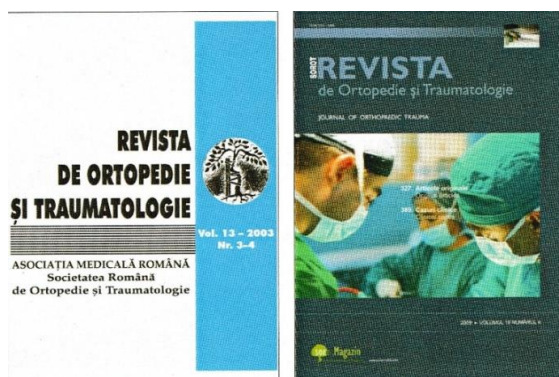
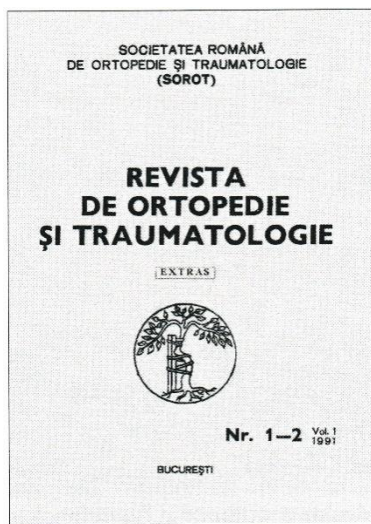


Figure 14, 15. Orthopedics and Trauma Journal (Bucharest)

The Journal of Orthopedics and Traumatology, led by N. Gorun, appeared without interruption for 21 years (1991-2011). In 2012, only one more issue appeared, with the summary papers presented at the SOROT National Conference in Craiova, organized by Dan Grecu.

In this magazine, appreciated as "a western magazine", great personalities from the country and abroad, as well as training specialists from the country published their valuable works (editorials, general reports, original articles, clinical cases, reviews). Numerous PhD students have also published their research in the preparation of doctoral theses.

All issues of the journal were reviewed in the Romanian medical press. Unfortunately, the magazine ceased its activity in 2011.

In other Romanian medical journals, valuable works in the field of orthopedics and

traumatology have been published, such as: Spitalul, Revista de Chirurgie, Chirurgia, Viața medicală in Bucharest, Revista Medico-Chirurgicală in Iași, Clujul Medical, Timișoara Medicală, Revista Târgu Mureș, Sibiul Medical, Maramureșul medical, Pagini Medicale Bârlădene, Revista de Radiologie, Bucovina Medicală, Revista de Oncologie, Revista sanitară militară, becoming later Revista de medicină militară, Medica Academica, Annals AOȘR etc. In recent years, several important monographs on the history of orthopedics in Romania have been elaborated (Fig. 16, Fig. 17, Fig. 18, Fig. 19, Fig. 20). Valuable works by Romanian authors have been published in prestigious journals abroad and even awarded.



Figure 16. Pages from the History of Orthopedics and Trauma of the musculoskeletal system in Romania

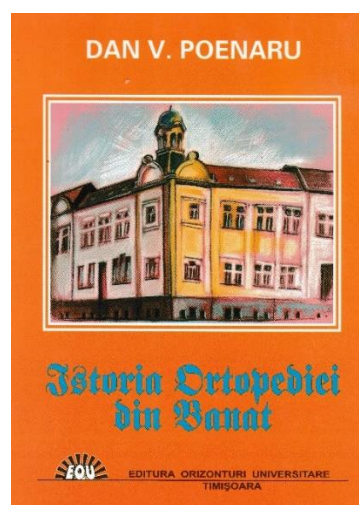


Figure 17. Monograph on the history of orthopedics in Romania



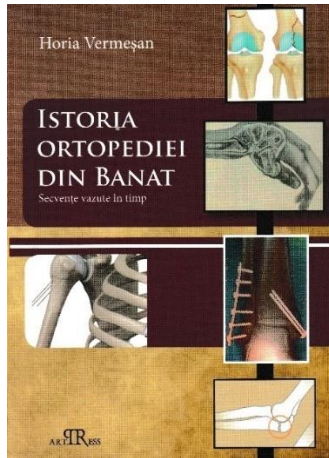


Figure 18. Important monograph on the history of orthopedics in Romania

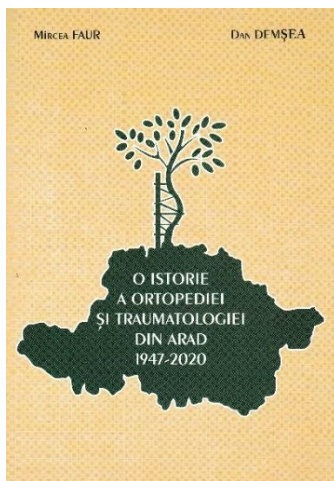


Figure 19. Important monograph on the history of orthopedics in Romania

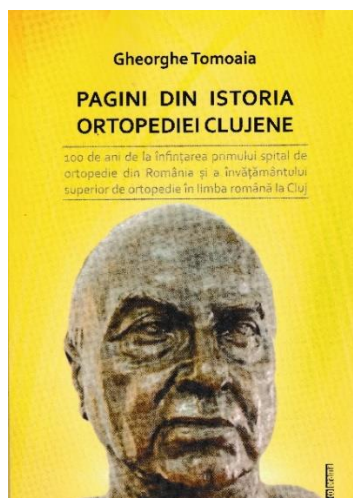


Figure 20. Important monograph on the history of orthopedics in Romania

At the same time, numerous monographs and treatises were published for the training of the new generations of specialists in orthopedics and osteoarticular traumatology (Al. D. Radulescu, Cl. Baci, N. Robănescu, A. Denischi, O. Medrea, A. Voinea, C. Ciugudean, Al. M. Priboianu, T. Ionescu, Al. Pesamosca, O. Troianescu, Gh. Floareș, N. Gorun, D.M. Antonescu, A. Firică, M. Nicolescu, H. Orban, Șt. Cristea, Cr. Stoica, V. Lupescu, N. Obadă, N. Georgescu, P. Sîrbu, P. Botez, Gh. Panait, C. Zaharia, C. Sabetay, Ö. Nagy, O. Alexa, D. Stănculescu, D. Poenaru, H. Vermeșan, Gh. Tomoaia, D. Barbu, Fl. Purghel, I. Matiuța, N. Gogulescu, C. Șișiroi, I. Șamotă and others).

All the important clinics and departments in the country have contributed, as authors, to a series of surgical treaties coordinated, over the years, by Th. Burghele, E. Proca, C. Constantinescu, N. Angelescu and Irinel Popescu, representing practically true textbooks in our specialty.

At the initiative and under the coordination of D.M. Antonescu, an extensive treatise on "Pathology of the musculoskeletal system" was published, in two volumes, published in Editura Medicală, Bucharest, 2006 (vol. I) and 2008 (vol. II). More than 60 orthopedic specialists from all over the country collaborated on this treaty. Also, in 2013, vol. 3 of the Surgery Treaty, under the coordination of Irinel Popescu and Constantin Ciuce, was dedicated to the pathology of the musculoskeletal system (coordinator D.M. Antonescu).

The activity and valuable results of Romanian orthopedists are fully demonstrated by the significant number of members of the Academy of Medical Sciences (D. Antonescu, D. Barbu, S. Diaconescu, A. Florica, N. Gorun, Gh. Panit, D. Poenaru, H. Vermeșan, C. Zaharia) and the Romanian Academy of Scientists (N. Gorun, D. Poenaru, C. Zaharia, Gh. Tomoaia, M. Nicolescu). I also had a full member of the Romanian Academy (Al.D. Radulescu) and



an honorary member (Gh. Niculescu). C. Zaharia was a member of the Central European Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts.

Several personalities of Romanian orthopedics have been awarded academic prizes. Al.D. Radulescu was awarded the prize of the Romanian Academy, in 1925 for the work "Small surgery and elements of surgical pathology", "Cartea Românească" Printing House, T. Huber Publishing House, Cluj, 1934. C. Zaharia received the Gr. T. Popa for the monograph "Elements of pathology of the musculoskeletal system" and the monograph "Guide to the practical and surgical anatomy of the limbs" (single author), both monographs published by Paideia Publishing House, Bucharest, 1994; C. Zaharia, M. Niculescu and Oana Despa also received the "Alexandru Rădulescu" award from the Romanian Academy of Scientists for the monograph "Aspects of palliative surgery in spastic paralysis of adolescents and adults", published by UMF Carol Davila Publishing House, Bucharest, 2008. N. Gorun received 4 academic awards: the "Gh. Marinescu" award of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania, in 1987, for the monograph "Bone tumors" published in 1984, at the RSR Academy Publishing House (collective), the Iuliu Hațieganu award of the Romanian Academy, in 2002, for the monograph "Maleolar Fractures", published by the "Curtea Veche" Publishing House, in 2000 (single author) (prize handed by Acad Nicolae Cajal), the "Alexandru Rădulescu"

prize of the Academy of Scientists from Romania, in 2011 for the monograph "Special osteoarticular traumatology notebooks, vol. 6, Hand" (sole author), Curtea Veche Publishing House, in 2008 and the "Francisc Rainer" prize of the Academy of Medical Sciences, in 2018, for the monograph "Special osteoarticular traumatology notebooks, vol. 9. knee" (sole author), "Curtea Veche" Publishing House, 2016. N. Gorun was also awarded the "Gerhard Küntschler Society" Prize by the International Society of Osteosynthesis, on 14.09.2019, in Sibiu. (the diploma was handed by the well-known American orthopedist David Seligson).

D. Poenaru et al. received the "Iuliu Hațieganu" award of the Romanian Academy in 2007, for the monograph "Hemophilic Arthropathies", published by the Romanian Academy Publishing House, in 2005.

Other Romanian orthopedists have also been awarded diplomas and medals at international congresses and conferences or represent Romania in various specialized forums.

At various scientific events held in the country and abroad, Romanian orthopedists have enjoyed and enjoy unanimous appreciation, which is the full guarantee that Romanian orthopedics will continue to perform, in deep respect and perennial admiration for its predecessors.

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