CONSIDERATION ON THE ACTIVITY OF PHYSICIANS COLLEGE IN MUREȘ DISTRICT

Interview with:
PROF. DR. HORAȚIU SUCIU,
President of the Physicians College in Mureș District

Birth date: 12.09.1967

Professional experience:

2013 - present
Member of University Senate, Member of the Staff University Council;
Correspondent Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences

2011 - present
President of the College of Physicians Mures District;
Head of the Cardiovascular Surgery Clinic; Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Transplantation Tg.Mureș
Head of Discipline; University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2014 - present
Professor - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures
Professor Assistant - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2007-2009
Lecturer; University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2005 - 2010
Head of the Cardiovascular Surgery Clinic II (adults and children), senior specialist in Cardiovascular Surgery;
Senior specialist in Cardiovascular Surgery;
University assistant; University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2001
Specialist physician in Cardiovascular Surgery;
Resident physician in Cardiovascular Surgery
Preparator in University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

01.02.1994 – 07.03.1994
Intern physician, District Hospital Tîrgu Mureș

EDUCATION

1998-2005
PhD in medicine
University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures, Romania

1987 - 1993
Faculty of Medicine

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SPECIALIZATION:

Cardiac surgery of newborn baby and child
Italia/Istituto Policlinico San Donato Milano

2004
Specialization in heart and great vessels surgery - cardiac surgery of newborn baby and child

2006
"Hospital Management" - National School of Public Health and Health Management

2006
" New methods of diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases" Tg. Mureș, june 19-24,
Mures District Council - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2006
Professional Training “Thoraco-abdominal border surgery” Education Ministry - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2007
Course Donorg-2007, Targu Mures, march 6-9,
Mures District Council - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2007
“Pediatric rhythm disorder”, Mures District Council - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures april 30—may 2

2007
Postgraduate training “Cardiac patient Management”- Education Ministry - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2008
Course Training for Trainers Department – Education Ministry - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bass Babes Bolyai Cluj-Napoca

2008
Postgraduate training “Heart surgery patient management”- Education Ministry - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

2008
Course “Essentials in organ donation seminar” – part of ETPOD Program, Târgu Mureș, oct 11,
Mures District Council - University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tg. Mures

Scientific activity:

Publications:
Books and chapters in national and international specialty books (with ISBN) - author / coauthor. –12. Articles published in international ISI journals – Thomson Scientific/BDI - 111;
Research projects - 10;

Affiliations:
Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)-2006
European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) – 2006
Romanian Society of Surgery – 1995,
Romanian Society of Cardiovascular Surgery – 2003,
Romtransplant Association - 2002
**INTERVIEW**

**Prof. Dr. Horatiu SUCIU, President of the Mures District College of Physicians**

**Reporter:** Professor, you are the President of the Mures District College of Physicians (DCP), an important organization both for protecting the prestige and interests of the medical profession, and also for participating in health projects and initiating normative acts / regulations for the medical sector.

- Please specify, in short, the main responsibilities of Mures DCP.

_**Horatiu Suciu:**_ the College of Physicians is a professional, non-political, non-profit-making organism, by public law, having responsibilities delegated by the stat authority in the field of licensing, control and supervision of the medical profession as a liberal one, authorized public practice. As main responsibilities, DCP shall ensure the implementation of regulations, norms and rules governing the medical profession, regardless the form or the health facility of medical practice; it shall defend the dignity and promote the rights and interests of its members in all activity areas; it shall protect the honor, freedom and professional independence of physician, as well as their decision right in medical practice; it shall certify the honorability and professional morality of its members.

- Which are the main accomplishments of the Mures DCP during last two years?

_**HS:**_ Mures DCP has initiated the assessment procedure of continuous medical education activities of our members, simplified/updated the working procedures between and within our departments, continuously updating information regarding the personal status of members (active / inactive, etc.). The Regulation of Organization and Functioning and Regulations of working commissions have been updated, while the communication system with our members, has been improved. We may also mention here three editions of the Ball of Physicians, a good opportunity to gather medical doctors in all specialties and to mark the most important achievements of Mures medicine.

- What about obstacles, challenges encountering in your activity?

_**HS:**_ Incoherent legislative system, confusing the medical sector activity and especially the activity of physicians.

- From your point of view, what role plays the College of Physicians in increasing the quality of medical act?

_**HS:**_ The College of Physicians initiates and promotes forms of continuous medical education in order to increase the professional competence level of its members. Continuous medical education is a part of the more comprehensive concept of **continuous professional development** in the medical area, consisting in all the planned activities of theoretical and practical training carried out by physicians to acquire, maintain and improve their level of professional knowledge, skills and abilities, in order to increase their performance level in each specialty, for a medical practice of high quality and to grant the patient safety. According to Romanian College of Physicians data, currently over 12,000 Romanian medical doctors work abroad. Also alarming is the fact that approximately 80% of young graduates of medical school want to leave for working abroad, according to a survey conducted by the Romanian College of Physicians at the end of year 2015, and published at the beginning of year 2016. The main reasons or complaints determining Romanian physicians to choose to practice in other countries, are related to their level of remuneration, also the poor working conditions in the public health system. Poor endowment of public hospitals, lack of modern and effective health technologies preventing physicians from their professional development and from providing the patients with the optimal medical care as needed. In several cases, doctors had to send their patients to buy the treatment by themselves from the pharmacy because sometimes hospitals lack medicines, resulting in frustrations for both patients and physicians.

- What about the data regarding the exodus/migration abroad of physicians from Mures district, and how could this phenomenon be stopped?

_**HS:**_ During the year 2016, 31 medical doctors left from Mures district to hospitals in Germany, UK, France, Sweden: 13 in Germany, 11 in UK; 17 of them were resident physicians, 13 specialist physicians and one senior physician. A real problem, causing frustrations among physicians and also among other medical professions, not disclosed enough, is related to the social respect and trust of civil society for doctors, as well as social vision over the status of medical profession. In order to the young doctors to remain in the country, first of all they need to earn incomes allowing financial independence since their medical residency program, corresponding to their working volume, stress and sacrifices in their personal life, they also need modern hospitals in order to provide patients with optimal care, appropriate conditions for professional development, and also respect from society civil as they deserve. Of course, erasing corruption and increasing the financing of system health, are additionally needed. The main objective of the Mures District College of Physicians is to grant the civil society and the state, in regard of an accurate practice of medical profession, at an impeccable level both professionally and morally.

- How are the complaints coming to Mures DCP, solved? How many of them are consistent/valid?

_**HS:**_ According to the law, disciplinary sanctions applicable by the professional body, are as following: admonish, warning, censure vote, penalty between 100 lei – 1,500 lei, interdiction to practice the medical
profession or certain medical activities/acts on a period between one month and one year, and withdrawal of RCP membership. During 2016, Disciplinary Commission of the Mures District College of Physicians has pronounced the following solutions:

- rejection of the complaints, with the termination of the disciplinary action, motivated by the fact that the complaint was belated, imputed aspects of doctors were unfounded, by the fact that after the start of disciplinary investigation, a number of doctors have been paid the outstanding levy, together with the penalties accordingly;
- admission of the complaints with the application of disciplinary sanctions (2 admonishes and 14 suspensions of membership, to pay for collecting overdue debts and penalties concerned).

16 doctors have been sanctioned in total. 10 appeals against the decisions pronounced by the Disciplinary Commission, have been formulated, disputed files have been submitted to the Higher Disciplinary Commission of the Romanian College of Physicians. 5 of the decisions communicated by the Disciplinary Commission of the Mures DCP, have also been maintained by the Higher Disciplinary Commission of the Romanian College of Physicians. As a senior physician in cardiovascular surgery and head of the Cardiovascular Surgery Clinic, you perform true miracles within the Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Transplant. By cardiac transplant, you gave a new chance to life for thousands of patients from all over the country, and your youngest patients were even newborn.

How many cardiac transplants have you accomplished in 2016 and how are your patients doing?

**HS:** In 2016, we have achieved 11 cardiac transplants with very good results, all the 11 transplanted patients have been discharged, and following the specific post-transplant treatment and monitoring. A national premiere is to be mentioned, in February we have transplanted the first patient possessing a mechanical circulatory assist device (so called „artificial heart” by non-specialists), implanted within our Clinic 13 months ago.

**INTERVIEW**

- How much the mentality of Romanians towards organ donation, has changed, are we more open to the idea of organ donation? Did we learn that donation means lives saved?

**HS:** Yes, Romanians know for sure that donation is saving lives, I can feel it! As a physician involved in transplantation activity since the first transplant in Targu Mures, done at November 14, 1999, as a resident physician, I was able to feel the way this activity I consider it „of excellency in cardiovascular surgery”, has emulated, changing mentalities. Starting with 11 donors in 1999, meaning a donation rate of 0.5 per 1,000,000 inhabitants at that time, presently it increased up to 120 donators annually, representing a remarkable progress. And donation refuse rate has also been decreased, as an expression of general mentality change in an area extremely delicate and particularly in an environment with rumors and allegations of negative connotation.

Thanks for your kindness to answer to our questions.

Reporter: Mariana Moldovan–Negoita

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Cardiovascular surgery, infectious diseases, perfusions, pathology etc.), as well as the teams for prelevation and implantation. This is the transplant typically performed AGAINST-THE-CLOCK, unlike the other organs tolerating longer times of ischemia, resulting in inherent difficulties of starting and especially continuity of such an activity needing to mobilize numerous medical staff from different specialties, which is not accessible to every medical center. And this can be clearly observed, as Targu Mures medical center is the only one in Romania with continuous, permanent activity in CARDIAC TRANSPLANTATION. Therefore, every time I have the chance, I claim that cardiac transplantation is not just a surgical intervention, but a state of mind and a challenge to which all of us must react: available! We also have to distinguish between the organ prelevation at distance from the transplant center, situation faced in over 90% of cases transplanted in Targu Mures, and local prelevation, within the center that also achieves the organ transplantation, when transportation problems are diminished. We have prelevated cord from most of the accredited prelevation centers in Romania, mentioning that Oradea, Iasi and Timisoara are the most active in donor identification. The other medical centers where we have sent our team for cord prelevation, were Arad, Alba Iulia, Cluj Napoca, Bistrita, Sibiu, Craiova, Bucuresti, Moiesti (Bacau district) etc.

Coordination is essential for achieving successful cardiac transplantation, being signally a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplany activity performed under constant time-pressure, as the heart (cord) is the most sensitive organ to ischemic state (oxygen deprivation) among all the organs transplanted. It should be known the fact that maximum period for ischemia is 4 hours, time which is calculated starting with the second donor heart is stopped until the moment it beats in the receptor chest. During these 4 hours, all logistic and organizing aspects have to be considered, including the terrestrial and air transportation, mobilization of the teams of specialists (laboratory, virology, anesthesia, cardiology, interventional cardiology,