

In memoriam – Brigadier General Mihai Nicolae Bîănă

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Now, in February 2017 as I write this, I find it appropriate to revive the dormant memory of the reader to remember about Prof. Mihai Nicolae Bina, MD.

The future General, Physician and Professor of Urology Mihai Nicolae Bina was born on April 2, 1942 in the city of Craiova and passed away on the day of Saturday, March 3, 2012, when he still had certainly much to say and decide in our profession.

He did not like to remember and to celebrate his birthday, because, unfortunately, he had lived in his youth, as a medical student, a memorable drama: on the day of April 2, on the same ward of the Central

Military Hospital, in the same clinical unit which, over the years, he will lead with professionalism, skill and dedication, his mother died – the distinguished professor Olimpia Bina. I remember that sometimes on the eve of that day, he avoided to enter in that reserve.

His father, General Professor Nicholas Bina, was a distinguished professor at the Military Academy ("Carol I" National Defense University, new style).

He came, therefore, from a family with an application for

the study and the profession of arms so that, from the outset, the stars lined up to become an excellent professional of military medicine.

After graduating "Dimitrie Cantemir" high school from Bucharest, in 1959 he became a student of the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical and Pharmaceutical Institute in Bucharest and also the "pupil" of the Medico-Military Institute (this



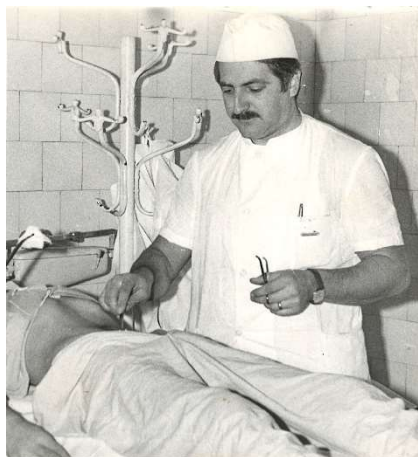
was the denomination for those who do not know). He once told me with sorrow and frustration as he went, in boots, from the Military Medical Institute Street near North railway Station to the college. There were incomprehensible times...

He completed his university studies, he graduated first of his generation in 1965.

His professional excursus was, from the outset placed under the best possible circumstances and almost obvious under today's ARU slogan: "Labor omnia vincit improbus" – Virgil, Georgice.

He was "extern" by competition (1963-1964), "intern" by competition (1964-1967), a brief period of teaching assistants at the Military School in Focsani, then secondary physician urologist, managed with the highest scores in the country.

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I got to make a confession.

Military doctors came, then and now from the same "strain" – the School of General Professor Carol Davila. After the Second World War, given the times and their understanding and approach their respective professional elite, felt, certainly some frustration in relation to their "civil" academic peers.

This "embarrassment" was not shared by the elite of the Romanian military medicine: Generals dr. Ion Atanasiu, Scarlat Longhin, Iuliu Şuteu, Gheorghe Niculescu, Traian Oancea, Academicians Victor Voicu and Ioanel Sinescu and many others, which through perfect and fair relationships with civilian colleagues have proven their worth and have integrated in the academic medical landscape of Bucharest as an unshakable symbiotic part. Future General Professor dr. Mihai Nicolae Bina had the same status!



Dr. Mihai Nicolae Bina became a specialist urologist (1971-1979) and consultant urologist in 1979 in one of the last competitions of its kind conducted in Communist Romania, because, then things have broken down altogether.

In fact, until 1991 the contest for "primary physician"/consultant (new style!) was no longer conducted.

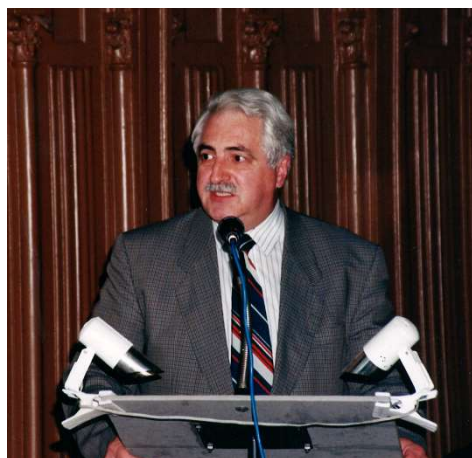
After a brilliant internship in general surgery in which

he learned much and already mastered this "type" of specialty he confessed with some nostalgia the "impact" it had on him the first "seen" prostatectomy in Fundeni Hospital which was performed by his first urologic "mentor" – Professor Dr. Gheorghe Olanescu. Particularly bleeding, not followed by rigorous hemostasis as in abdominal surgery, continued by placing a hemostatic mesh, he seemed quite marked after three decades by this motivational experience.

Professor Bina was, and has been throughout his terrestrial existence, a great fighter.

And to dispel the "embarrassment" that we mentioned earlier he elaborated under the leadership of Professor dr. Docent Valentin Neagu – incomparable personality of Romanian urology (2017 is the 100th anniversary of his birth: who knows this?) his hard worked PhD thesis, entitled 'Readjustment of the upper urinary tract after deobstruction of the bladder neck in benign prostate hyperplasia' – held in 1976.

In 1979 he became consultant urologist.



Meanwhile, in an absolutely dumb decade, he had carried out studies of "Emergencies in Urology" and "Urologic Oncology" (1979), under the mentorship of the Academician Eugen Proca and an International Course for young military doctors (Macolin, Switzerland), which he told me about often.

Post-revolutionary era found him prepared for future missions. He was the head physician of Clinical Urology Department of the Central Military Hospital between December 1990 and November 2004.

I was a doctor on duty on the day of November 30, 1991 when, he arrived from the Ministry of Defense, and he told me that on December 1, 1994 will be raised to the rank of Brigade General. I kissed him on both cheeks and I was proud that urology in this regard has its continuity.



This is a unique moment in the life of a man – after a lifetime of work and struggle.

This memory can certainly be connected to those written by the great writer Marin Preda, in a novel, once: "What has meaning for a civilian, for a soldier

has a totally different one!"

In 1994 he accomplished his university dream: he became Senior Lecturer and later, in 2000, Professor of Urology of the Department of Urology, Faculty of Specialization and Training, Medico-Military Institute, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila" Bucharest.

Since 1995 he was a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

As I wrote five years ago in an ever undesirable "In Memoriam": "Hollow data fail to surprise and to outline the man that was Mihai Bina".

At Professor Mihai Bina I think everyone who knew him admired his sharp observation spirit, his gentleness, surgical talent, intelligence and diligence in all that which he has undertaken in earthly life.

Without Professor Mihai Bina, without his delicacy when advising or criticizing, without his professional experience and humanity, life looks very sad!...

To me, I confess, the work effort and way of thinking of Professor Mihai Bina was an example and an impulse.