

EDITORIAL

Benchmarks of the evolution and revolution of military medicine in the XXI century – Tradition, Trust, Professionalism



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There is no secret to anyone that we live in a society marked by uncertainty and unpredictability, a society in which information flows through all communication channels, both in cyberspace and in mass media. Therefore, it is increasingly difficult for the „modern man” to decide upon the veracity and value of the informational content so that, eventually, based on the latter, he can upgrade his knowledge in any area of interest.

In such a context, it is difficult for society to control its evolution and to identify valuable markers that would ensure a valid growth in time and space. Lacking history, hierarchy, elite, rules and order, one can talk neither about the development of an organization nor about the development of society as a whole.

I think we have all passed, in recent years, through a "period of resistance" to the wave of non-values that invaded us and created an organic need to protect and preserve the values our parents and grandparents taught us. Despite the appearance of resignation, the accumulation of such energy has made us stronger, more aware of our role and this made us persistent and gave us the power and the chance to change our future and our children's

future.

Returning to the reason that brought us together, by means of this page, you – the reader and me – the author, I can say without any doubt that every cell of my being has reacted with emotion at the course and unrest of the last years of military medicine. It was only when I became the Commander (General Manager) of the "Dr. Carol Davila" Central Clinical Emergency Military Hospital (SUUMC), that I fully understood the huge potential of this noble profession – military doctor – potential generated by the excitement of the trust and respect offered each day by the public opinion in general and especially by citizens.

I have always considered that medicine is a field in which evolution ignores borders, bureaucratic rules, customs and paradigms, because trying to rescue someone's life is such a pure and noble approach that no sacrifice for this purpose can ever be considered too big.

This year the "Dr. Carol Davila" Central Clinical Emergency Military Hospital, a symbol for the history of Romanian society, celebrates the honorable age of 185 years of tradition, trust and professionalism,

dedicated to research, development and innovation in medicine. 185 years in the service of life, without any deviation from the fulfillment of the two oaths: the military oath and Hipocrate's oath.

We should always keep, in our minds and hearts, the memory of those who, on the battlefield of the two World Wars, nursed their fellows and some of them even lost their lives trying to rescue the latter, the persistence of the struggle with their own limits taking care of the victims of the earthquake that shook Bucharest in March 1977; the emotion lived when faced with the young soldiers, victims of the construction of Transfăgărășan and of the Danube – Black Sea Canal. Recently, the victims of the tragic fire at Club Colectiv were a challenge for the doctors and nurses in our hospital. All the departments of the hospital worked as a real efficient and dedicated team having only one purpose: to save the lives of the victims who were our patients.

During 185 years, together with the Romanian Army, we have been in the service of the country and of the population, doing our best in our duty with modesty, professionalism, ethics and team spirit. We did not pose as mentors, although here, in this area of health, the foundations of medicine, pharmacy and education in this field in Romania were laid. Medical and surgical specialties were also born here, specialties that today are spoken of as a fact, not as a gift from our ancestors, military doctors – thoracic surgery, urology, epidemiology etc.

The only thing military medicine was deprived of until now, is "a single voice of professionals" in this field, segment considered by most of our civil colleagues relatively narrow as area of specialty and therefore lacking the capital injection necessary to ensure its technical and cutting-edge technology, which apparently decreased our competitiveness in the market of medical services provided. Not true! In the absence of facilities, the human resource of this system accepted the professional challenge and approached a sphere of increasingly complex pathology, and on the other hand, the interdisciplinary collaboration has strengthened human links and increased our performance as professionals. It is true that until three years ago, we

may not have had the latest surgical technologies but we beat cancer through the physician's sharp spirit, the surgeon's, the pathologist's and oncologist's experience.

Three years do not mean anything for a hospital, but for someone diagnosed with a relentless disease they mean everything... This was one of my thoughts that motivated me to develop centers of excellence – assigned and equipped to the highest standards – capable of providing prevention, treatment and monitoring of disease in the oncologic pathology, strokes, cardiovascular diseases and digestive diseases; lung transplant – a medical and surgical activity of high human and professional performance, which also involves a great responsibility assumed by SUUMC, on medium and long term, for patient's life quality, service which is not available at this time, in any other public hospital in Romania; neurological and neuromotor rehabilitation center for the veterans from the operation theaters.

Romania's geopolitical and geostrategic situation, as a state located at the EU and NATO border, obliges me, at the same time, to analyze the development of the operational medicine component in the Central Military Clinical Emergency Hospital "Dr. Carol Davila", so that, in wartime, we can be prepared to face the specific challenges related to the pathology and casuistry of a military confrontation.

Both as a doctor, and especially as the manager of the Central Military University Emergency Hospital "Dr. Carol Davila", I understand that the expectations of the whole society towards military medicine are very high, whether we speak of peace or war. People expect us to be a performant regional hospital, which provides at safe and high standards, a medical act comparable to that granted by a specialty hospital from abroad, while in wartime the hospital should become an elite military medical facility, ROL 4, able to provide medical care to the standards required by our NATO allies.

With a background of 185 years, the Central Military Clinical Emergency Hospital "Dr. Carol Davila", returns in force, as an important player on the market of medical services in Romania and elsewhere, proving

that to the three qualities that have pierced the veil of history – TRADITION, TRUST, PROFESSIONALISM – we should add the key to success in order to ensure the evolution of this type of institution, within the criteria imposed by the information society, consisting of flexibility, predictability, resilience and responsiveness in the case of a crisis or disaster.

As arguments in support of the above, I would point out some key milestones of the work of the last three years, namely, that SUUMC is the only institution in the medical network of the Ministry of Defence running projects from European funds for research, development and innovation in the medical field. It is connected to military medical centers in the Balkans, by means of the collaboration platform of telemedicine type, IMIHO. The hospital has developed collaboration agreements with major centers in the field, in the country and abroad (Belgium, Austria, Turkey and Serbia) to conduct training programs for medical staff and it is a serious instruction and training institution for students and

residents, as a consequence of the extension of academic and university partnerships.

At the beginning of a new stage of life, I hope that The Romanian Journal of Military Medicine, in this new format, supported by a high scientific editorial board, will fulfill its objective to disseminate knowledge, to bring added value to the market of specialized publications in this field, from Romania and from abroad, to support the research activity and to motivate young people who make their first steps on the road to a career dedicated to the most precious thing that we all receive: health.

As a team player who strongly believes in the power of military medicine elite, in the interdisciplinary dialogue of this discipline, I assure you that I will support this approach, as I have already done it so far, in order to increase its quality every year and to borrow from the brilliance of the historic celebration of 185 years from the signing of the birth certificate of the Army Hospital.