Academician Ion Hăulică, one of the most famous scholars of today, brilliant representative of the medical school of Iasi, of Romanian, European and international medical science, left us after a long period of suffering.

It is a painful loss not only for our national School of Medicine, but also for the Romanian Academy, especially the Branch in Iasi, where the scholar carried out a remarkable scientific activity, unanimously appreciated both in Romania and abroad, for more than two decades.

Academician Ion Hăulică, son of Moldavia, was born on October 29, 1924, in the village of Ipatel, county of Iași. His high-school and university education were made in Iași.

In 1949, when he graduated the Faculty of Medicine with exceptional results, he was invited to join the university education system, becoming an assistant lecturer in Pharmacology and Physiology, at the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Iași. Abusively dismissed, he was transferred to the Institute of Normal and Pathological Physiology of the Romanian Academy, in Bucharest, where he remained for 12 years, as a scientific researcher and team leader, under the guidance of academicians D. Danielopolu and Gr. Benetato, who soon came to highly appreciate his valuable activity.

In 1963, when he became a Ph.D in Physiology, Ion Hăulică returned to Iași, where he applied for the position of assistant professor at the discipline of Physiology in the Institute of Medicine. In 1968 he became full professor and docent, and took over the management of the didactic and scientific activity within this discipline, working here until 1994, when he retired. In this way, he laid the foundations of what was to become a genuine specialized academic school, unanimously recognized both in Romania and abroad. Under his careful guidance, tens of doctors and professors, now famous personalities themselves, got specialized in Physiology.
Professor Ion Hăulică had visiting fellowships in USA, Austria, Poland, former USSR, Germany and France. He was also invited as “visiting professor” at the University of Connecticut (USA), between 1969-1970. In 1972, he organized in Iași an international, 3-week Workshop, under the auspices of IBRO/UNESCO, entitled “Synaptic transmission”, to which specialists from USA and from 12 European countries had been invited.

In his over 50 years of fruitful scientific activity, he approached a large range of topical problems of normal and pathological physiology, a field where he largely contributed. Thus, fundamental research was devoted to the physiology and pharmacology of the organs with vegetative functions, the functional biochemistry of the brain, the renine-angiotensine system of extrarenal origin, the neuro-endocrinology of acute and chronic stress with different causes (physical, chemical, psychic, biological, etc.), the neuro-umoral bases of pain and of stress algogenesis, functional implications of the free radicals and of the endogenous antioxidants, the role of the endothelium and of the nitric oxide in vascular reactivity, etc.

Large part of the experimental results obtained by the scientist have been confirmed and cited by numerous authors from both our country and from abroad, in studies published in prestigious academic journals.

In recent years, academician Ion Hăulică dedicated his investigations to a highly important problem of modern medicine, namely the role of the vascular endothelium in the normal and pathological reactivity of the cardiovascular apparatus, credible proofs being provided on the participation of nitric oxide (NO), both as an endothelial factor for the relaxation and preservation of the basal vascular tonus, and as a neuronal messenger involved in nociceptive sensitivity.

Academician Ion Hăulică created a scientific work of significant theoretical and applicative value, usually accomplished in more than a life time, publishing over 293 original studies in famous journals of the field issued both in the country and abroad, two treatises of human Physiology and eight monographic works, three of them being rewarded with the prestigious Prize of the Romanian Academy (The vegetative nervous system, in 1975; Local hormones, in 1983 and Synaptic transmission, in 1999).

Also, the reputed scientist has authored or co-authored 10 patents.

Along his career, he took part in tens and tens of conferences and scientific sessions organized in various parts of the world, delivering original communications, poster presentations, participating in the Round Tables where he was usually invited as a member of their Board.

In a quite difficult period for the scientific research in Romania, academician Ion Hăulică succeeded in having invited in Iași, on the occasion of a Meeting of the Romanian Physiologists, the Nobel Prize Winner Dr. George Emil Palade, who was born in Iași.

Professor Ioan Hăulică was a member of several Romanian and international scientific societies: The International Society for Physiological Sciences, FEPS, SMN, The International Society for Brain Study (IBRO), The European Society for the Study of the Pineal Body, The European Federation for Biological Sciences, The Society of Neurosciences, The Society of Psychoneuro-endocrinology, and many others.

For quite a long time, academician Ion Hăulică was Vicepresident of the Academy of Medical Sciences and President of the Society of Physiological Sciences of Romania. Considering his scientific contribution, he was elected corresponding member of the Romanian Academy in December 1991, and became full member in November 1994. He was the President of the Society of Physicians and Naturalists in Iași (1990-1994), in which quality he greatly contributed to increase the national and international prestige of our Academy.

In 1997, he created the Laboratory of Experimental and Applied Physiology, at the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy, where he resumed the investigations on the alternating, extra-renal ways of the renine-angiotensine system, as well as on the influence of the radical species of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon on the central vascular reactivity.

For his many-sided contributions to the development of the Romanian biomedical sciences,
he became Knight of the "Steaua României" Order (2002) and dr.h.c of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Târgu Mureş (1999), of the "Ovidius" University in Constanţa (2003) and of the University of Cluj (2004).

He was Dean (1972-1976) of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice Rector (1981-1988) of the University of Medicine in Iaşi.

Academician Ion Hâulică backed up and promoted the activity of numerous universities and research institutes, both public and private ones, contributing actively to their organization and modernization, paying special attention to the structure of the investigation projects. In this respect, special mention should be made of his contribution to the organization of the Institute of Medical and Socio-Human Researches at Apollonia University of Iaşi, an institution proud to bear his name.

All these facts have made academicion Ion Hâulica a prestigious name in the Gallery of the illustrious personalities of the Medical School in Romania and abroad.

A most special tribute for his scientific prestige was paid by Academician Laurenţiu Popescu – President of the Academy of Medical Sciences, President of the Medical Section of the Romanian Academy, elected President of the European Federation of the Medicine Academies: „Academician Prof. Ioan Hâulică, a most distinguished personality of contemporary Romanian Physiology, a world wide acknowledged scientific personality, was a representative of the prestigious School of Clinical Physiology, brilliantly represented, in the last century, by Academician Daniel Danielopolu, founder of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and by Acad. Grigore Alexandru Benetato. Winner of the most important Romanian scientific prize in the field of Neuroendocrinology, and of the "Gr. T. Popa" University medal, Academician Ioan Hâulică will remain in the history of science as the discoverer of the “brain retina”.

Apart from these outstanding scientific results, attained by following the principle expressed by the genius of the Romanian music, George Enescu: “My rest after work is work”, one should not forget that the man who left us, moving to the Good Lord, was also a very sensible, kind-hearted person, an excellent colleague who helped his fellows in most difficult moments, being sometimes in danger of jeopardizing his own position.

Academician Ion Hâulică brilliantly combined his scientific gifts with the love for his human fellows; he was a talented teacher and a most pleasant interlocutor.

He was also a patriot, a responsible citizen of his city, who took an active part in supporting it in difficult moments, expressing courageously his own opinions on some inhuman decisions affecting the medical school in Iaşi.

Academician Ion Hâulică was always animated by deep human and family feelings, he was a faithful, practising Orthodox Christian, having benefited from a highly moral education in his family and also from his theological university studies.

For his colleagues and for his students he will always remain a role model of professional, ethical and deontological behaviour.

For many years to come, we will sadly feel the absence of this illustrious generous personality, and it is now our duty to cherish his memory by cultivating his unique scientific and social human thinking.

Iaşi,

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