

IN MEMORIAM

Academician Vasile Anestiadi (1928–2014)

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When he reached the age of 86 years, Academician Vasile Anestiadi departed this life, as a medicine patriarch, worldwide savant and public figure, promoter of national and international cultural values.

Vasile Anestiadi(s), son of Christoforos – descendant from the Hellenic people of Bosphorus and Athens, was born on May 4, 1928, in Sărătenii Vechi, Orhei. Along the time, thanks to his native qualities and hard work, he has become a specialist in morphology, pathology, pathobiology, angiology, biogerontology, step by step seizing the titles of MD, PhD (1955) and Habilitated MD (1963), the scientific and didactic title of Professor (1964), and subsequently the scientific titles of corresponding member and full member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (A.S.M.), being evaluated and recommended by the profile sections of the Academy of Sciences of Soviet Union (U.R.S.S.) in 1965 and 1972.



He graduated with honor mention the State Institute of Medicine of Kishinev (1951), PhD studies (1954) and the internship entitled “World Health Organization – Modern Methodology for Teachers of Medicine” (London, 1978).

Starting from 1955, his destiny was linked with the State Institute of Medicine of Kishinev, where he has ascended from Assistant (1961–1963) to Rector (1963–1986) and President of the Rector Board of Republic of Moldova. Due to a perseverant organizational activity carried out by Vasile Anestiadi, the State Institute of Medicine of Kishinev, at present “Nicolae Testemițanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, became one of the most prestigious modern healthcare centers in the former Soviet Union.

At the recommendation of the famous Hellenic-American scientist, Paris Constantinides, within the A.S.M., Vasile Anestiadi founded the Laboratory of Pathobiology (1986), and subsequently the Scientific Center of Pathobiology and Pathology, where he activated until his last breath as Director. At the same time, he was member of Presidium of A.S.M. (1990–1995) and President of the Ethics Research Board of A.S.M. (2006).

The fundamental research made by the savant Vasile Anestiadi crowned with the elaboration of the theory of incipient atherosclerosis. Introduction of fundamental notions, such as *injury*, *preatherosclerosis*, *pathomorphosis*, *immunoinflammation*, *synergism*, early diagnosis of atherosclerosis constitutes fundamental, impact discoveries and a scientific reorientation of great perspective.

The Presidium of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Russian Federation, by Decision No. 72 of March 28, 2007, acknowledged the worldwide strategic project “Ecopathomorphosis of Atherosclerosis, Pathobiology and Aging” (1990–2015), performed by Professor Vasile Anestiadi, as the best work on atherosclerosis immunomorphology.

The volume “Pathomorphosis of Atherosclerosis” was recorded by ΑΚΑΔΗΜΙΑ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ on October 31, 2008, as patrimony piece No. 1321174, and the recently obtained ecobioremedy FP-EA that inhibits atherosclerosis and reduces the cardiovascular risk, optimally frames within the worldwide imperative “W-17: Novel Anti-Atherosclerosis Treatment Strategies”. Another monographic paper, “Atherogenesis – pathobiological aspects”, was appreciated by the Presidium of the Russian Medical Academy with the “A. I. Strucov” Prize, as the most valuable work in the field.

The results of the investigations are exposed in about 700 publications: specialized journals, international sources; various monographs: “Атероклероз артерий” (1976), “Атеросклероз и эластика артерий” (1970), “Энзимы артерий и атеросклероз” (1973), “Морфогенез атеросклероза” (1982), “Ультраструктурные основы атеросклероза артерий” (1983), “Поврежденный кардиомиоцит” (1991), “Начинающийся атероклероз” (1991), “Атерогенез и иммунное воспаление” (1997), “Атерогенез (аспекты патобиологии)” (2001), “Atherosclerosis and Diabetes” (2006), “Pathomorphosis of Atherosclerosis” (2008), “Atherosclerosis and Aging” (2013).

As a speaker, coordinator, member of organizational committees, president and co-president, Academician Vasile Anestiadi represented the Republic of Moldova with dignity in European and worldwide scientific conferences, in Moscow, Sankt-Petersburg, Tokyo, Kiev, Valencia, Washington, Helsingør, Nice, Berlin, Roma, Bucharest, Prague, Paris, Istanbul, Lisbon, Montreal, Athens, Florence, etc.

As a worldwide famous savant, he became an exponent of the International Academy of Pathology (Paris, 1980), honorary member of the Romanian Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics (Bucharest, 1998), Senior *Societas Pathologorum Europae* (Berlin, 2001), member of the International Union of Angiology (Tokyo, 2001), honorary member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences (Bucharest, 2002), member of the Scientific Board of the Euro-Asian Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics (Moscow, 2005), member of the European Society of Pathology (Paris, 2005), member of the Editorial Boards of Romanian Journal of Morphology and Embryology (Craiova, 2005) and Архив патологии (Moscow, 2012).

Also, he activated as President of the Medical Society of Moldova Board, President of the Societies of Science, Pathology, Cardiology, Gerontology (Kishinev), and also as a member of the Health Ministry Board, vice-president of the Irish–U.R.S.S. Society, member of the A.S.M. Presidium.

As a Rector of the State Institute of Medicine of Kishinev, for almost a quarter of a century, he has supervised the instruction of over 20 000 generalists, pediatricians, hygienists, dentists, pharmacists, etc. who asserted as excellent professionals, carrying out the *Alma Mater* fame overseas.

Vasile Anestiadi formed a vast constellation of scientists and professionals in biomedicine. His disciples became professors, holders of departments, managers of laboratories and fundamental institutions.

As president of the Rector Board of Republic of Moldova (1977–1986), Professor Vasile Anestiadi implemented the methodology of modern academic didactics, arguing the organization and construction of sanatoria and preventoria for students, of rest and sport model-centers for students and teachers, of esthetics clubs, etc.

As Deputy and President of the Committee of Health, Physical Culture and Social Assistance Protection, of the Supreme Soviet of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic (M.S.S.R.), he substantially contributed to the development of medicine, science and education in the Republic, he pleaded for and formalized the foundation of the Cardiology Institute on October 20, 1985.

During his period of a member of Kishinev Municipality Executive, he solicited and obtained 105 hectares of ground in order to build the campus of the University of Medicine, with centers, institutes, clinics and an adequate infrastructure.

In hardest times, he saved “St. Nicholas” Church of Kishinev from devastation and the legendary Monastery of Mihalcea Hâncu from a total ruin and disappearance. By the decision of the Central Committee of M.S.S.R. on July 11, 1978, at the initiative and insistence of Rector Vasile Anestiadi, the Monastery passed under the patronage of the State Institute of Medicine of Kishinev. For eight years, the student collectivity has worked hard and managed to revive the sacred place.

For exquisite merits and remarkable contribution to the development of medical sciences, of the medical and pharmaceutical academic education, as well as for providing the national healthcare system with highly competent physicians and pharmacists, Academician Vasile Anestiadi was rewarded with the following distinctions: Red Work Flag (1961, 1976), Badge of Honor (1971), State Prize (1977), “People Friendship” Order (1981), Work Glory (1996), Republic Order (2005), “S. I. Vavilov” Medal (1976), “50 years from Victory” Medal (Jerusalem, 1999), Golden Fortune of International Academic Rating of Popularity, “Dimitrie Cantemir” Medal (2003), 60 years of A.S.M. (2006), Георгиевская медаль. Честь. Слава. Труд. IV степень № 420 (Kiev, 2003), Honorary Rector of *Alma Mater* (2008), Honorary Citizen of Native Village (2011).

One of the greatest virtues of Academician Anestiadi was represented by his aspiration regarding the survival of the people spirit through competence, science and spiritual fertility. The extended range of his activities has perfectly combined with a main social status as our ancestry true patriot, with love for his native culture, language and history and a permanent tendency of seeding this love in the young generation, as well.

May God rest him in peace! And may us honor his memory!

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