

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Dr. Doc. Gioconda Dobrescu (1926–2009)

We lost yet another one of our priceless teachers. Professor Gioconda Dobrescu is now looking upon us from the realm of shadows.

Though it seems impossible, we must accept the thought that we will never see her again, and that her voice – symbol of a powerful personality shall never sound again. That is when we must lose our eyes with reverence and imagine her in the places filled with her memory. At her home in Sărărie Street she, radiant, meets her guests, friends and colleagues of all ages. In the lab, she sits over the microscope – forming teacher of so many generations and unmatched diagnosis specialist. She is in the auditorium, giving lectures, debating a scientific issue or discussing a PhD thesis. She steps through the halls of the conferences in Iasi, Bucharest, Craiova, Timisoara, surrounded by those for whom her elegant presence was always a great joy.



She was born on September 8th, 1926, in Telejna, Vaslui, as daughter of the priest Neculai Rotaru. She graduated the Faculty of Medicine from Iasi in 1951. She was married to Professor Alexandru Dobrescu and she had two sons.

She built her academic career with dignity, in a time hostile to real values in general and specifically hostile to her because of her social origin. At 33 years of age, she was forced to leave the Pathology Department in Institute of Medicine of Iasi. From 1959 until 1978, she was the coordinator of the Pathology Services at the “Socola” Hospital and at “Saint Spiridon” Hospital, returning to higher education in 1978. From 1978 until 1993, she was the coordinator of the Histology Department at the “Grigore T. Popa” Institute / University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iasi. From 1993, she activated as a consulting professor.

Her scientific work includes 10 monographs and university courses, as well as over 270 research papers. Following a specialization in England, in 1971, she oriented the research activity of the teams she led towards the modern directions of electron microscopy and immunomorphology. Under her guidance as a PhD supervisor, 30 theses were elaborated. Beginning with 1998, she was interim president and then full president of the Iasi Branch of the Medical Sciences Academy.

On a sad Sunday, May 17th, 2009, her generous heart stopped serving her. She left us although we wished her always besides us. How many things were left untold of her soul treasures and of her exceptional experience as a physician?! How many hundreds of questions we wish to ask her and how many tens of pieces of advice we would like to hear from her if she could be here with us, again?!

She was an arch over time. Gifted with an exceptional intelligence, she grasped only the best from the great teachers of the between wars period and she seeded it in the young minds, decades later, in times not always at peace with the past.

She was the “flagship” of professional devotion – for the student who was to become a reliable doctor, for the young specialist who needed to master the art of diagnosis, for the young teaching assistant who had to ensure the future prestige of the university, for the PhD candidate who needed to develop his scientific personality.

She was the uncontested authority of pathology in Iasi, bringing back the smile on many people’s faces burdened with wrong verdicts of devastating diseases and knew how to breathe power into the lives of the ones left without hope.

She was an unstoppable contestant in the race for knowledge and a flawless trainer for those who grew up with her model in mind.

She had the gift of speech, captivating her audience with inciting subjects and hidden meanings.

She was an excellent diplomat, offering the perfect solution in tense situations.

She always had a piece of advice, a kind thought or a nice word for all those around her.

She had a garden with beautiful flowers, which she tended with special care.

Gioconda Dobrescu was a wonderful human being.

Prof. Dr. Irina-Draga Căruntu
