

Thirty years in the service of medical sciences in mother tongue

Abstract – Past, present, future

Thirty years of the last three centuries. Thirty years have passed by since the rebirth of the Transylvanian Museum Society, a prestigious scientific community, with a history of three centuries and which was re-established three decades ago after a forty years forced inactivity.

The Transylvanian Museum Society (TMS) was founded on the initiative and with the support of Count Imre Mikó in 1859, to cultivate science in mother tongue (Hungarian), considering this desideratum an essential condition for future prosperity. This Society, named “The Academy of Transylvanian Sciences”, with its continuously developing infrastructure and its valuable scientific collections, was a solid support once the University of Sciences in Cluj was established 150 years ago, in 1872. The activity of this elite academic staff in collaboration with the TMS among others facilitated the foundation of a medical-pharmaceutical higher education. The Association of Physicians and Naturalists was one of the professional associations established at that time. Then, TMS by uniting forces with the University of Sciences established the Section of Medical Sciences (SMS) in 1906. This department carried out multidimensional activities by organizing regular scientific events in different locations, playing an important role in the popularization of recent scientific results, including their own researches. The regular publication of The Scientific Bulletin of the Section of Medical Sciences was also used to fulfil this role. Unfortunately, after one hundred years the compulsory cessation of the university activities (established in 1872) in the middle of the 20th century also led to the cessation of the TMS activity ordered by the communist dictatorial regime.

Following the overthrow of the dictatorship in 1989, the reorganization of the TMS activity started on a new, modern basis. An industrious, enthusiastic work ensued, even in the situation of almost total lack of the old infrastructure, in order to remove all the difficulties and obstacles.

In 1945 the Hungarian line of the medical education performed at the University of Cluj was moved to Tirgu-Mureş, where the pharmaceutical education was established in 1948. After resuming the activity, the decision to

be the headquarters of the Medical Section of TMS in this city was based on the existence of this medical-pharmaceutical education in Târgu-Mureş. In 1990 the re-establishment of the Medical Section took place with the enthusiastic and active participation of Hungarian doctors and pharmacists from Transylvania. In 1991, the first year of activity, the first scientific session was as well organized in Odorheiu Secuiesc.

The publication of its own scientific periodical (in Hungarian) was continued under the name of *Bulletin of Medical Sciences (Buletin de Ştiinţe Medicale, Orvostudományi Értésítő)*, volume 64, in which the papers presented at the scientific session were published. A number of other papers on the history of the TMS and Section of Medical Sciences (SMS) were also published aiming to inform the younger generations as an incentive to consolidate the future.

The re-organization of activities within the new framework aimed at setting up the SMS operational board and working out its own regulations. An important moment was the finding of a location/ headquarters for the offices of the Medical Section, considering the large amount of administrative activities with numerous members (over the years the number of staff becoming approximately one thousand) of the TMS.

Meanwhile, this office was also equipped with an adequate IT system and for an operative functionality the Section was provided with its own stamp, respectively bank account. In the new framework, the annual scientific sessions were organized in the largest localities in Transylvania, with a compact Hungarian population. In parallel, due attention was paid to the modernization and accreditation (by CNCISIS) of the periodical *Bulletin of Medical Sciences*. As appreciation of the active role of pharmacists in the activity of the Section, its name was changed into *Section of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Transylvanian Museum Society (Secţia de Ştiinţe Medicale şi Farmaceutice)*.

Over the years external collaborations of the Society have been developed, and internationally renowned specialists of Hungarian origin have been invited annually, who by delivering valuable lectures (plenary sessions, post-graduate courses) have greatly contributed to the quality of these scientific sessions by achieving a higher professional level. Collaborations in many cases also led to common projects. Young specialists were also comprised in these projects to aid further training and research and for the publication of specialized books in Hungarian. Special prizes have been created to honour some exceptional professional results, respectively for special merits in supporting the work of the TMS, such as the Lencsés György – Ars Medica Award, and the Csögör Lajos Award. Prizes are also awarded to honors students.

This is the second year since the pandemic annihilated personal relationships through direct contact. For this reason we have not been able to organize the jubilee scientific session of “30 years” in 2020. However, we hope that we will be able to overcome this adversity and through our enthusiasm we will be able to continue our organizational activity, the cultivation of medical sciences in our mother tongue, according to the secular traditions of TMS.

An important duty for the future is the training of young specialists in this activity, in order to ensure the next generation of specialists. We must pay special attention to publishing the results of our research in our mother tongue, supporting our long-established accredited journal, with the publication of Volume 95. These hopes guide us into future activities in the fourth decade since the resumption of our activity. Past inheritances oblige us to which the permanent renewal in the future is linked.

Regarding the preservation of our traditions, we must be the examples to follow the same way as the activity of our former lecturers, who were also in charge of the Medical Department, with special merits, as the late professors: *Puskás György, Pap Zoltán, Feszt György, Kovács Dezső*. We hold their memory with appreciation in most grateful recollection.

We believe that “*who has a past, will have a future.*”

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