Romanian Neuroophthalmology within the EUROPEAN UNION

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Beginnings

Romanian Neuroophthalmology has come into being as a frontier domain, as a necessity in practicing modern clinical medicine, due to the unavoidable cooperation of the ophthalmologists, neurologists and neurosurgeons in finding solutions for the complex cases, which none of them could comply with separately.
The beginnings of the Romanian school of Ophthalmology can be traced back to the 1880s in the Annals of Coltea Hospital in Bucharest.

The Clinical Service of Ophthalmology was directed by reference personalities of the Romanian School of Medicine, such as prof. dr. Dimitrie Manolescu, prof. dr. P. Vancea, prof. dr. Mihail David. Each of them felt the need to cooperate interdisciplinarily with neurologists and neurosurgeons preoccupied by “medical enigmas” of the nervous system.

În time, this initial intuition materialized in apariția multidisciplinary teams in practically all the university centres in Romania.
Neurology

The Romanian School of Neurology was created by the famous scientist Gheorghe Marinescu more than 100 years ago and was carried on by his students: Oscar Sager, Arthur Kreindler, Ion Radovici, I.Minea, State Drăgănescu, N.Ionescu-Sisești, C.I.Parhon and then V.Voiculescu and the new generations. In their turn, they felt the need to step over the pre-established borders of their own speciality and to cooperate with their fellow ophthalmologists and neurosurgeons to elucidate the “enigmatic” cases.
Neurosurgery

Romanian Neurosurgery was represented by prof. dr. Dimitrie Bagdasar (who specialized in this field with prof. H. Cushing, in Boston, USA), who also created the first Clinical Department of Neurosurgery in the South-Eastern Europe, in Bucharest, in 1935.

His endeavour was continued by prof. dr. Constantin Arseni, his student. They put into practice this need of cooperation directly with dr. Florentina Lascu (1913-1961), considered to be the first Romanian neuro-ophthalmologist.
Practically, all the modern university towns in Romania can trace back a predecessor in neuro-ophthalmology:
lasy
Romanian premieres in lassy

- **Prof.dr. Amza Jianu** (surgery) who practiced the first decompression in tumors of the posterior fossa in 1910.
- **Prof.dr. Al. Moruzi** (1900-1957), the creator of the first *Service of Neurosurgery in Romania* (Socola 1933).
- *The Ophthalmology School in Iassy* began with **prof. dr. Elena Densuşianu-Puşcariu**, the first woman to become a university professor in a Faculty of Medicine in Romania, and the first woman a professor of clinical ophthalmology in the world. She was the one who, together with **prof. dr. I.T. Niculescu** directed **dr. F. Lascu** to neuro-ophthalmology, in Paris.
• Their interest materialized in reference works among which it is worth mentioning:


Chapter III (Orbit Pathology, 66 pages out of 345) authors: D.Brănişteanu, Camelia Bogdănici, D.Chiseliţă, G.Macovei, V.Rusu, P.P.Vancea.

• As a corolary of the need for interdisciplinary cooperation, Prof. dr. Dănuţ Costin lays the basis of the Clinical Service of Neuro-ophthalmology within the Neurosurgery Hospital in Iassy.
Cluj - Napoca
Neroophthalmology in Cluj

Family dr. Szabo, Bianca – ophthalmologist and Ioan – neurosurgeon are the two specialists who restlessly support the development of the neuroophthalmology in the university center on the Someș.

Both of them frequently take part in congresses, at home and abroad as well, with neuro-ophthalmology papers, making valuable contacts with foreign specialists, with whom they cooperate to elucidate cases of exception.
Târgu Mureș
Old and new at Târgu Mureș

Dr. Liana Sireteanu (1944-2003) dedicated to ophthalmology due to the outstanding personality of Prof. Vasile Săbădeanu, who greatly influenced her evolution. He inspired his cooperators to act in the spirit of justice, devotion and objectivity in scientific research and a deep humanitarianism in sick people care.

Since 1973, after professor V. Săbădeanu’s retirement, dr. Liana Sireteanu has been a dedicated cooperator for professor Francisc Fodor. Together they edited the volume "Ophthalmology", at Editura Didactică și Pedagogică, in 1981.

After prof. dr. Liana Sireteanu’s premature passing, the neuroophthalmology problems, especially those regarding the orbital pathology, have been solved by the team of neurosurgeons led by dr. A. Lupșa.
Timișoara
Today in Timișoara

• Dr. Gh. Munteanu is an exceptional ophthalmologist who, due to the themes dealt with in his scientific works, can be considered a neuroophthalmologist.

• Every two springs, through the ceaseless work of prof. dr. Ileana Zolog, Timișoara hosts a meeting under the title “New tendencies in ophthalmology“, where Neuroophthalmology has its own cycle of conferences and workshops, as a kin domain.

• Another team is made up of the Franțescu spouses, she - an ophthalmologist, he – a neurosurgeon, who solve together neuroophthalmology cases.
Craiova
The Ophthalmology Subject began to be taught at the University of Medicine și Pharmacy in Craiova in the year 1975, when Conf. Dr. Paul Cernea came to the Faculty of Medicine in Craiova. He will be at the head of this clinic until his retirement in 1998.

He was followed by prof.dr. Florica Ignat and her team, made up of dr.Carmen Mocanu, dr. Doina Barǎscu, dr.Carmen Damian, dr.Mirela Preda, who cooperated with Prof.dr.Neşťianu, a neurologist.
Brașov
Modern premiere

The first regional Center of Neuroophthalmology and Ophthalmopediatry began activitating in Braşov, with PHARE financing, in 2003.
Sinaia
Since 2002, every National Congress of Ophthalmology housed by this resort on the Prahova Valley has enlisted in its programme a neuroophthalmology section, where prestigious physicians throughout the country, who have any concern in the field, or who have met border cases, have contributed with works and solutions proving that neuroophthalmology was winning through in Romania, as well as everywhere else in the whole world.

By Dr. Riri Manor’s diligence, Prof. William Hoyt (USA) honoured one of these meetings with his presence and delivered a lecture on the aspect of the retina in an optic fibers ischemia.
Bucharest
Other beginnings

Romanian Neurosurgery appears at the European level at the moment prof. dr. D. Bagdasar (1899-1946) created the first section of clinical Neurosurgery in South-Eastern Europe, in 1935, in Bucharest.

Being formed by prof. H. W. Cushing (1927-1929), in Boston, he passed on to his student Constantin Arseni the necessary open mind attitude to implementing neurosurgery as a school in Romania and prefigure the necessity of the future neuroophthalmology for approaching the border cases.

The cooperation between prof. Constantin Arseni and dr. Florentina Lascu strengthen conviction of the necessity of neuroophthalmology, being carried on under the academic auspices of their ophthalmology professor - D. Manolescu – and their neurology professor - V.Voiculescu.
Nowadays effects

The cooperation of prof. Constantin Arseni and dr. Florentina Lascu paved the way to the neuroophthalmology.

The experimental and clinical research about the physiology of the visual ways was made by Mircea Steriade și E. Krighel at the Neurology Institute, founded by Arthur Kreindler in 1950. The results of the research were published in a volume (Le système visuel) printed in France (Masson Cie).

At present, dr.D.M.Psatta carries on the research in the field of the clinical neurophysiology of the visual system within the Neurosciences Center of Colentina Hospital, providing new possibilities of diagnosing (ERG combinations and Evocated Visual Potentials, Mapping of Spectral Reaction, EEG at visual stimuli) for the neuroophthalmology patients.
• Dr. Măriuca Niculescu (Ophthalmological Emergency Hospital), Prof. dr. Doina Pop de Popa, Conf. dr. Doina Tacorian and Prof. dr. D. Voinea (Municipal Hospital – Ophthalmology) solve the border cases, in the best tradition of their forerunners, by interdisciplinary cooperation.

• Dr. Ligia Onisim and dr. Adriana Constantinescu (Section of Neuroophthalmology at the Emergency Clinic Hospital “Prof. dr. Bagdasar- Arseni”) should be mentioned for examining cases of complex ophthalmological and neurosurgical pathology as well as for taking part with works in Congresses at home and abroad.

• A reference point for the cases of great finesse continues to be the Central Military Hospital, by the activity of prestigious physicians who carry on the skills of Prof. dr. Benone Cârstocea and Conf. dr. Mircea Filip.
• Dr. Tatiana Roșca, a neurosurgeon and ophthalmologist (Emergency Clinical Hospital “Sf. Pantelimon”), formed by Constantin Arseni, founder member of RONOS, member of NANOS and EUNOS, taking part in national and international Congresses, contributing to prestigious publications (American Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology) cooperates with a team of specialists for diagnosing and treating border cases.
Romanian premieres in reference domains

• 1922 The **Romanian Society of Ophthalmology** is founded

• 1924 The first **Romanian Congress of Ophthalmology**, dedicated to trahoma, at Coltea Hospital in Bucharest. Prof. dr. P.Vancea was specially preoccupied by this serious disease and he was internationally recognized as a ceaseless militant against trahoma.
Within this context, founding the “ROMANIAN NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY (RONOS)”, in January 2007, means a natural step to be taken.

Founder members were:

- dr. Tatiana Roșca – neurosurgeon and ophthalmologist,
- prof.dr. Benone Cârstocea – ophthalmologist and scientific researcher,
- dr. Dan M. Psatta – neurologist and researcher in the field of clinical neurophysiology.
Objectives

The stated objectives of this endeavour can be traced to the aims of the neuro-ophthalmology societies throughout the world:

- development of clinical neuroophthalmology
- promoting the medical principles, policies and practices in view of
- a better care for the neuro-ophthalmology patients
- gathering scientific and clinical knowledge in related domains (the necessity of a double specialization, the necessity of new competences)
Fundamental values of RONOS are

- aspiring to accomplishment,
- encouraging pioneering, an innovatory spirit
- interdisciplinary cooperation

(nurologists, neurosurgeons, ophthalmologists, in order to improve medical performances).
Attending the Neuro-ophthalmology Congresses opened the way to make Romanian physicians known and recognized by their fellows throughout the world whose appreciation became visible at the moment the Romanian Neuroophthalmology Society was born: the recommendations of three worldwide renowned professor doctors, **Neil Miller** (USA), **Robert MacFadzean** (Great Britain) and **Shlomo Dotan** (Israel), contributed to paving the way of our society to this worthy place and rank.

Moreover, as a recognition for the modern and original way of considering the role of such a society, mirrored by the website realized ([www.ronos.ro](http://www.ronos.ro)), dr. Tatiana Roșca was co-opted in the editing board of EUNOS, along with representatives from other European countries members of this professional organization (Istanbul, 2007).
EUNOS website committee has the following members:

Mike Burdon
Bertil Lindblom - webmaster
Tatiana Rosca
Helmut Wilhelm
MEDICAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN THE FIELD OF NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

The Neuro-ophthalmology Society of Australia – NOSA

European Neuro-ophthalmology Society – EUNOS

International Neuro-ophthalmology Society – INOS

North American Neuro-ophthalmology Society – NANOS

Canadian Neuro-ophthalmology group

EVI European Vision Intitute -EEIG
To whom it may concern,

This statement is to certify that Neuro-Ophthalmology is fully accepted internationally as a medical scientific discipline in its own right. Many leading academic departments of neurological and visual sciences in the developed world have a department of neuro-ophthalmology as part of their basic structure and there are several renowned societies eg International, North American, European, Japanese, Australian etc and 2 journals which support the discipline. Leading neuro-ophthalmologists are recognised to have provided valuable educational and research contributions to studies of the eye, brain, and nervous system.

Robert McFadzean,
President, European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
Glasgow, 1st June, 2009
May 31, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Neuro-Ophthalmology—a field that assesses patients with afferent and efferent visual disturbances known or presumed to be caused by neurologic disease or disorders—is a recognized specialty in the United States. Neuro-opthalmologists evaluate patients referred by general (and other subspecialty-trained) ophthalmologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, and general practitioners. Many are on the faculty of academic institutions (see above), whereas others are in private practice. Some are “pure” clinicians, whereas others pursue a variety of research endeavors. Some are surgeons, whereas others are not. Almost all have a substantial role in teaching of residents, medical students, and various practitioners. Indeed, to be accredited by the American College for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), all ophthalmology and neurology residency training programs are required to teach this subject, and thus all have neuro-opthalmologists on the full-time or part-time faculty.
There are approximately 400 neuro-ophthalmologists in the United States. Neuro-ophthalmology has its own scientific organization—the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS; website: www.nanosweb.org) and an organization journal—the Journal of Neuro-Ophthalmology—that consists of peer-reviewed articles and is listed on PubMed and other scientific publication search engines. NANOS holds an annual scientific meeting attended by the majority of its members as well as various guests, residents, neuro-ophthalmology fellows, and even medical students. Most neuro-ophthalmologists have completed a residency in ophthalmology or neurology and then completed a 1- or 2-year fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology. Although there is no accreditation of Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellowship Programs in the United States or certification examinations for persons claiming to be neuro-ophthalmologists, Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellowship Programs can be “approved” by the American Board of Ophthalmology if they fulfill specific educational requirements.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information regarding this important specialty field.

Sincerely,

Neil R. Miller, MD FACS
Neuroophthalmology in Europe:

**EFNS** was founded in 1991, in the occasion of the last Congress of the Pan Europene Neurology Society, in Vienna. Any European Neurology Society, including the one in Israel, is a member of EFNS and consequently a member of any European Society.

EFNS represents approximately 15,000 European neurologists.

The **European Society of Neuro-ophthalmology (EUNOS)** is a professional organisation opened to physicians and researchers interested in neuroophthalmology and it derived from EFNS. **EUNOS** welcomes colleagues from throughout the world, although most of the members are European residents. **EUNOS** aim is to promote cooperation between the European neuro-ophthalmologists and those in any other parts of the world. **EUNOS** organises scientific meetings every two years. All members are welcome to join the mail list for information on professional themes of neuroophthalmology.
Dear Bertil,

I think it would be useful to include a link to RONOS from the EUNOS site. There is a particularly good educational contribution by Neil Miller of the type I would like to see on eunosweb Tatiana is doing a good job there.

I am copying this message to the other members of the website committee and editors for their attention and solicitation of contributions in addition to illustrative cases, possibly in the Lectures Section. There is plenty material from previous EUNOS and SOE meetings, quite apart from individual know-how, and I note Helmut features on NOVEL. We need to reinforce his European credentials.

I hope I will get approval from the Council shortly to go ahead with your requested professional assistance.

Bob
(Robert McFadzean,
President, European Neuro-Ophthalmology Society)
European Assessment

Below are useful neuro-ophthamology links:

http://library.med.utah.edu/NOVEL/
The Neuro-Ophthalmology Virtual Education Library (NOVEL) contains a wealth of information and is highly recommended

http://www.neuroophthalmology.ca/index.html
The homepage of Canadian Neuro-ophthalmology Group contains, among many other things, a case of the month and a fundoscopy quiz.

http://www.ronos.ro
The excellent homepage of the Romanian Society of Neuro-Ophthalmology (RONOS). Relax - there is an English version.
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Thank you for existing!