

In Memoriam

Professor Nicolae Cernea, MD, PhD (1956-2025)

Nicolae Cernea was born on January 1th, 1956 in Iași. He was a prominent figure in Romania's medical and scientific community. He was a professional, human, and moral benchmark.

Professor Nicolae Cernea was born into a generation of physicians who shaped, through dedication and vision, the modern identity of Romanian medicine. He stands as an outstanding personality of the academic and medical life of Craiova, distinguished not only as a highly skilled obstetrician-gynecologist, but also as a mentor, leader, and school founder.

His professional destiny became deeply and definitively connected to the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova and to the Emergency County Clinical Hospital of Craiova, two institutions to which he devoted his entire career. Within this academic and clinical environment, Professor Cernea contributed decisively to the development of obstetrics and gynecology, both as a medical discipline and as a field of scientific research.

A graduate of the Faculty of Medicine of Iași in 1981, he pursued his vocation with perseverance and discipline, advancing through all stages of medical training-from trainee physician to specialist, and ultimately to senior consultant in obstetrics and gynecology and corresponding member of the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences. His professional evolution reflects not only competence, but also a constant commitment to excellence and innovation in medical practice.

Beside his clinical work, Professor Cernea developed an impressive academic career. Beginning as a university teaching assistant, he ascended step by step through all academic ranks, becoming full professor in 2008 and later on, PhD supervisor affiliated to the Doctoral school of the Faculty of Medicine of Craiova -later on the University of Medicine and Pharmacy. His teaching activity has been defined by rigor, clarity, and a constant concern for shaping future generations of physicians, many of whom have benefited from his guidance, as doctoral students or residents.

His leadership qualities were recognized early, leading to important administrative and managerial responsibilities. He led the First Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Emergency County Clinical Hospital of Craiova and, for nearly two decades, was one of the most respected voices in the specialty at the national level. Within the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, he assumed multiple educational and administrative responsibilities, becoming a mentor and leader for many generations of students, residents, and physicians who owe their professional training to him.

He served as Medical Director of the Emergency County Clinical Hospital of Craiova and Head of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Department, while also coordinating academic structures within the university as Head of Department and member of the Faculty Council and University Senate.

His colleagues recall his as a calm and balanced spirit, as well as due to his ability to assume great responsibilities with discretion, yet with firmness. Through these roles, he actively participated in shaping both medical education and healthcare policies at regional and national levels. Professor Cernea's contribution to the advancement of obstetrics and gynecology in Romania is substantial. He played a pioneering role in introducing and developing minimally invasive surgery techniques, such as



gynecological laparoscopy and hysteroscopy, in Craiova. Furthermore, he was instrumental in establishing specialized units, including maternal-fetal medicine and prenatal diagnosis, as well as centers dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of precancerous cervical lesions.

His scientific activity is equally remarkable. With hundreds of published papers, including numerous articles indexed in international databases, his research has addressed to essential topics, such as infertility, fetal medicine, gynecological endocrinology, and cervical pathology. His work reflects a continuous effort to integrate modern diagnostic and therapeutic approaches into clinical practice.

An active member and leader within numerous professional organizations, Professor Cernea served as Vice President of several national societies in obstetrics and gynecology, colposcopy, and ultrasonography. His involvement extended to national health policies, where he contributed as member and president of advisory committees within the Ministry of Health, as well as coordinator of national clinical guidelines and screening programs, including those aimed Early Detection Program for Cervical Cancer in the South-West Region.

Equally significant is his contribution to medical education and postgraduate training. As coordinator of the residency program in obstetrics and gynecology in Craiova, he has trained generations of specialists, fostering both professional competence and ethical responsibility. His role as a mentor is reflected in the numerous doctoral theses he supervised and in the strong academic community he helped build.

Professor Cernea's editorial activity further underscores his commitment to the dissemination of medical knowledge. As Editor Manager of the scientific medical journals Craiova Medicala and Current Health Sciences Journal, as well as a Director of the University Medical Publishing House in Craiova, he supported the visibility and development of Romanian medical research.

Beyond his professional achievements, Professor Nicolae Cernea was recognized as a man of integrity, balance, and dedication. His personality combined academic rigor with openness and support for younger colleagues, whom he has constantly encouraged to pursue excellence in both clinical and scientific fields.

Through his entire career, he has contributed not only to the advancement of a medical specialty, but also to the consolidation of a true academic school of obstetrics and gynecology in Craiova-one that continues to evolve and to be recognized at both national and international levels.

Professor Nicolae Cernea remains, without doubt, one of the defining figures of the medical school of Craiova, a model of professionalism and a source of inspiration for many generations of physicians to come.

As this issue of the Current Health Sciences Journal is the first to be published without Professor Cernea in his role as an Editor Manager and content contributor, is therefore dedicated to his memory and also to the mourning of his loss by the whole Editorial Team.

Farewell, Professor! We wish you the peace and light that you have given to others throughout your entire life. Thank you!

Professor Stefania Tudorache, MD, PhD