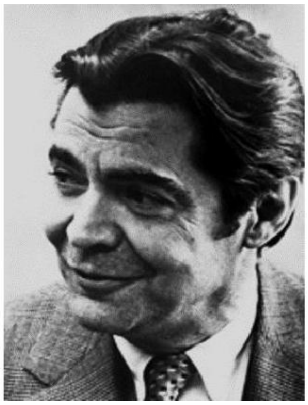
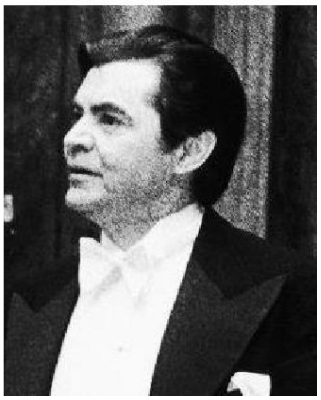
GEORGE EMIL PALADE
(1912 – 2008)

Romanian biologist, specialized in cell biology, recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1974. He was born in Iași in a family of teachers, on November the 19th 1912. He was an outstanding pupil and student. He attended the classes of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Bucharest, that he graduated in 1936. He obtained a doctorate degree in medicine at the same university, related to the research on the urinifer tubes in dolphins in 1940. In 1946 he married Irina Malaxa, the daughter of a proeminent businessman. The couple established in the USA. George Emil Palade was invited by Albert Claude to work at the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research in New York. His early work involved the combined use of biochemistry, subcellular fractions and electron microscopy, whereas he deciphered the subcellular architecture and function. Together with some of his co-workers, Palade established the role of mitochondria as cell organelles that generate energy. The ribosomes (also known as the particles of Palade) are cell organelles rich in RNA - a site for protein synthesis, are his major scientific breakthrough. In 1961 he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USA. In 1973 he transferred to the Yale University in New Haven, where he became the first scientist to be elected Head of the new Cell Biology Department. George Emil Palade, together with Albert Claude and Christian de Duve, were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 1974, for their *'discoveries regarding the cell architecture and functions, that were quintessential for the development of modern cell biology'*. He is an honorary member of the Romanian Academy since 1975. He was a professor at the San Diego University in California since 1990 until the end of his life. His scientific research in cell biology was acknowledged his entire life. George Emil Palade was awarded many distinctions, titles, medals and orders. He passed away on October the 7th 2008.