

**Iuliu Hațieganu (1885 - 1959) -
Founder of the Romanian medical education and the Great Union**

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The Romanian Great Union Centenary represents also a reason to go back in time and, moreover, to recall traditions, people and facts that have made their mark in society at the time. Maintenance or rebirth of any school, including the medical one, can not be done without rediscovering, reminding, and consolidating the foundations of the past, even if they have become memories, because over time they became traditions. Considering the events of 1918, among the many personalities and events whose names are linked to the Great Union, one must also mention the doctor Iuliu Hațieganu.

On December 1st, 1918, 1228 representatives of the Romanians in Transylvania, Banat, Crișana and Maramureș, elected by the villagers by democratic vote, with cards called "Credentials" or special envoys, and other over 100 000 people, accompanied by priests and teachers convened in Alba Iulia and decreed (by unanimous vote) "the unification of those Romanians and of all the territories inhabited by them with Romania". The next day, on December 2nd, 1918, the High National Romanian Council of Transylvania formed a government under the name of Directory Council of Transylvania (Consiliul Dirigent al Transilvaniei), headed by Iuliu Maniu.

The end of 1918 and the next year, 1919, was the time when the political, economic, social, cultural, academic and educational institutions in Transylvania were taken over by the Romanian authorities, framing and organizing them at a level no inferior to that of the antecedents. Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu attended celebrations in December 1st, 1918 in Alba Iulia, being the official youth delegate of the University of Cluj. On this occasion, he was invested by the new authority with taking over and organizing university education in Cluj, a task not very easy and of great responsibility. But, because of the strong and prestigious personality, the young Romanian professor paid with so much dedication and

abnegation and, besides the other students and representatives of the University of Cluj, making the Transylvanian university fortress become the Romanian Heidelberg.

Speaking later about his presence at Alba Iulia on the memorable day of December 1st, 1918, Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu said it was the best day of his life. Here is how prof. Octavian Fodor - his groom – describe the presence of Prof. Hațieganu at Alba Iulia: "In 1918, on December 1st, a young doctor was delegated on behalf of university youth to represent his position in front of the Great National Assembly in Alba Iulia, which decided the destiny of all the Romanian Country. This young man called, among other things, for the establishment without delay of the higher education in Romanian language at Cuj. He had to begin with this and it was not easy. They felt that the eyes of the whole world were fixed on the new university city, the success of which some doubted, both here and elsewhere. Their success and the strength of their university were due to their approach to their own needs and to the increase of compassion for humans, values outside of which nothing was required."

In the context of this article, it is appropriate to present some memories of Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu about his youth and early life:

"The Great Union Year, the most wonderful year of my life. I was 33 years old, full of power, enthusiasm and optimism in the soul, at the fulfillment of the great national ideal. The students in Cluj chose me as their leader at the Great National Assembly in Alba-Iulia. At the head of a large delegation - about 150 - I asked for a place for students in the Great Council that was constituted at that moment. A place in the Great Council was promised to my modest person, but they did not give it to me at the end. There were too many candidates and places were already distributed. Even at that time the university youth was not understood, although the issue of education was then the most important part of the new state. The students were demanding the opening of the Romanian University in Cluj with a Faculty of Medicine, me being at that time the head of the University of Cluj."

At the founding of the Directory Council (Consiliul Dirigent), I was entrusted to lead the Health Department as General Secretary. Here I worked a short time, passing this task to Iuliu Moldovan. From the beginning, I supported the opinion that the University of Cluj requires young active elements. Cluj with the large clinics requires young energies. Being fully accepted these principles, my candidates have all succeeded in front of the committee including Marinescu, Juvara, Manicatide, Moldovan and my modest person. Apart from young scientist elements, two world-renowned scholars have been remarked - V. Babeș and C. Levaditi. So we started the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj.

On November 7th, 1919, Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu held the first course in Romanian language at the Medical Clinic I, entitled "The Problem of Catarrh Jaundice", in which he issues the "infectious" hypothesis of hepatitis, seeking etiology as a living pathogen. One of the first achievements of the new teaching staff of the Faculty of Medicine was the foundation of the scientific magazine "Clujul Medical", the first issue being published in 1920, a magazine that still continues its appearance under the same name, excepting its refuge in Sibiu, in that time being called "Ardealul Medical".

The young Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu became the first dean of the Faculty of Medicine and he had the chance to form a team with personalities in the Romanian medical education such as: Victor Babeș, Victor Pappilian, Iacob Iacobovici, Constantin Levaditti, Iuliu Moldovan and other teachers who formed the starting team of the Romanian medical education in Cluj.

For 40 years, Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu will dominate the medical life in Cluj, contributing directly to the development of the medical education (as a professor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Rector of the "King Ferdinand I" University, academician) and, equally, the development of the specialized medical assistance and medical scientific research.

The “Basic Compendium of Semiology and Medical Pathology”, a complex book in three volumes, written together with Prof. Ioan Goia (awarded by the Romanian Academy), represents a crowning achievement of Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu's teaching materials. Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu emphasized not only the professional training of the doctors, but also his human dimension, based on a solid general culture, knowledge of philosophy, psychology, sociology, inclination towards literature, music, painting etc. Tudor Arghezi called him the “Romanian medicine professor”, and Ion Goia, said about his friend: “He was a great doctor, a great professor and a great scientist, an organizer and educator with immense talent ... was rightly an overwhelming personality.”

Tudor Arghezi l-a numit “profesorul medicinei românești”, iar prietenul medicului Hațieganu, Ion Goia, spunea despre amicul său: “A fost un mare medic, un mare profesor și un mare om de știință; un organizator și educator de imens talent... a fost pe drept cuvânt o personalitate covârșitoare”.

Prof. Iuliu Hațieganu has remained in history for his merits as a clinician and pedagogue, an emeritus scientist and a master of humanistic culture. It is said that he has learned from Hipocrate the love for the others and from Pasteur the patriotism.

