



In memoriam

Sisak Stefan : A life dedicated to a passion

Our good friend, our beloved doctor has just passed away, at the age of 64. His family, his friends, colleagues and patients have lost a wonderful person who will remain in their memories forever.

We all loved him for his enthusiasm, for his joy of living, for his erudition, for his seriousness, professionalism and for his humor. A real Renaissance man. All of us who knew him well were touched in a way that changed our existence.

Dr Sisak graduated the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Targu Mures in 1976. He became an ophthalmologist in 1981 and took his PhD in 1995. Since 1991 he had his own private practice and in 2000 he co-founded OCUSAN, an ophthalmological clinic with an operating theatre, among the first ones in the country.

He was married for almost 30 years to Edit, a neurologist, and had two children, Eszter and Tamas. In his last years of life he found comfort and joy in his new family with Imola, his former psychotherapist, and her three children, Aron, Adam and Petra.

He loved his profession beyond everything. He was ahead of his time, a genuine visionary.

He was a brilliant cataract surgeon even before phaco era, but his true passion was medical retina. For his PhD he studied the internal limiting membrane, and that was before the OCT era. His collection of fluorescein angiographies is impressive, he did thousands of FAGs, many of them without a digital camera...

Dr. Sisak was a nonstop learner.

He learned a lot from his illness too. Seven years ago he was diagnosed with cancer. The doctors gave him eight months to live, but he didn't accept this prognosis. He still had so many things to do in this life, not in the other. He started to learn about his illness, talked to survivors and began to change his way of living. He tried every cure that he heard of, and every one of those cures worked, but only for a short time. Finally he lost this battle, but the courage, the determination, the strength and the dignity that he demonstrated during that battle inspired everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Dr. Sisak was a very modest man.

He never used "I" when he talked about his achievements, but always used the term "we", as one would refer to teammates. And the team that he built was so dedicated, so united, so respectful, so proud!

What did I learn from him?

From the professional point of view, I owe him a lot. I can't forget that in my first year of residency, the first time I held the needle, I bent it when passing through the sclera and he laughed a lot. Even now, after more than fifteen years, I remember that laugh every time I do strabismus surgery...I consider myself very lucky that I had this chance to be around him for such a long time...

But the most important thing I learned from him was to put our patients' interest above ours. He was their lifetime doctor. He didn't abandon them after the surgery was done, keeping a special relationship with each and every one of them.

What did I like most about him?

That even in the most excruciating pain, he found the strength to think about others with love, to make jokes and to make plans for the future.

What is my biggest regret?

That he never had the chance to see and to work in our renovated operating theatre, which we have just opened. Dear Isti, if the Champs Élysées do exist, you definitely belong there. You will be always in our hearts.

Diana Cormos