

Editorial**FAREWELL TO OUR COLLEAGUE ANCUTA (ANCA) M. STEFAN
(1960 - 2018)****Marios Loukas**

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A valued member of both the Argentine Association of Clinical Anatomy (AAAC) and American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACAA), Ancuta (Anca) M. Stefan, MD was, until encountering health problems several years ago, an easily recognizable presence at meetings and conferences due to her friendly and collegial spirit, multidisciplinary knowledge, innovative approaches, and keen interest to broaden her horizons in various medical, scientific and humanistic fields.

Anca devoted over 25 years of her life to practicing medicine and/or educating medical and

dental students and residents. During this time she rose to the rank of Associate Professor, held faculty appointments in Departments of Cell Biology, Anatomy, Family Medicine, and Radiation Oncology, the Office of Medical Education and the Academy of Medical Educators, directed various courses and programs (e.g. Clinical Skills; Cell, Tissue and Organ Biology; Histology; Simulation Center) and participated as faculty in several other courses and programs.

In many ways and different settings, Anca was a true promoter of clinical anatomy through integration between basic and clinical sciences with emphasis on clinical relevance, critical thinking and active learning. One of her special areas of interest, development and strength was the synergy between pedagogy and technology.

Among a diverse list of achievements at several medical schools in the USA, Anca had a central role in: a) adopting the use of virtual microscopy in the teaching of histology and pathology, creating 3D virtual reconstructions of human anatomy, and designing radiological-anatomical-histological exercises at the University of Massachusetts Medical School; b) implementing, adapting and running the virtual patient program across the entire curriculum at the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine; c) performing the collaborative work to design from scratch the new curriculum and simulation facilities at the proposed Touro University College of Medicine in New Jersey; and d) designing and/or expanding medical simulation activities and interprofessional education at the Medical College of Georgia; etc. In addition to her work at home institutions, she became a Harvard Macy scholar, participated as external faculty in the teaching at Harvard Medical School, and was active in other

professional societies including Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE), International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE), Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE), and Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM).

Anca participated at the First Congress of the Argentine Association of Clinical Anatomy (AAAC) in Huerta Grande, Cordoba, in 2009, was a member of the editorial board for Revista Argentina de Anatomía Clínica (The Argentine Journal of Clinical Anatomy) since its inception, and was awarded a diploma as Honorary Member of the AAAC in 2017.

Anca's academic career was complemented by the years of clinical experience and dedication to the communities in which she worked as a physician. After graduating from Carol Davila University School of Medicine in Bucharest in 1986, Anca practiced medicine in Romania and became a faculty member at her Alma Matter. She moved then to the British Virgin Islands

where she worked as a physician at Peebles Hospital and also saw patients at Bougainvillea Clinic and other private or governmental clinics. As a result of relocating into the USA, Anca went back to continue her career in academia in 2000. Besides working, Anca enjoyed painting, playing piano and guitar, travelling and learning about different cultures, meeting people, reading, watching movies and discussing them with friends.

It is often said that it is not only about where one goes but also who one travels with. For more than 37 years, Ancuta and Cristian Stefan, MD were companions, wife and husband, collaborators on educational and scientific projects, and – above all – best friends wherever their journey through life took them.

Although we are saddened by Anca's early departure from this life, we will always cherish her memory, remember her smile and admire her positive attitude, courage, resilience, dignity and professionalism. Farewell, dear colleague and friend!