



## Pleural Ultrasound Conference – a new challenge for pulmonologists

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### Medical Conference, for the first time in Tîrgu-Mureș

The First National Conference of Pleural Pathology was held in Tîrgu-Mureș, between March 24 and March 26, 2016. The event, organized by "The Working Group for Pleural Pathology of The Romanian Society of Pneumology (RSP)" in partnership with the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Tîrgu-Mureș under the aegis of the Romanian College of Physicians, featured a new approach to current trends in the diagnosis and complex treatment of pleural disease

This conference marks the first meeting, in a unique event, of the newest group within The Romanian Society of Pneumology, namely the "The Thoracic-Pulmonary Ultrasound and Pleural Pathology Group of The Romanian Society of Pneumology", the last newborn of SRP. Why was pleural pathology the logo of this conference? The core topic was the pleural pathology due to the diversity of expression of various diseases involving this component of the respiratory system, in a primary or secondary phase, is and remains an unimaginable diagnostic puzzle. Clinicians are also concerned about the fact that 10-15% of diseases are related to the pleura and pleural ultrasound is a modern, non-invasive and extremely useful investigation, recently used in the paraclinical arsenal. This conference is based on the previous efforts from the pleural ultrasound lectures held at Vama in Bucovina or in Oradea by artisans, well-known leaders of RSP, such as Gabriela Jimborean, Lavinia Davidescu, Edith Simon, etc.

The audience consisted of many specialists, predominantly pneumologists, of course. Thoracic surgeons, internists and family physicians also attended. The first day focused on the pleural ultrasound practical lecture entitled: "THE CHEST ULTRASOUND - an effective way of investigating and guiding of the treatment in thoracic pleuropulmonary pathology". The conference also included a lecture on somnology, dedicated mainly to nurses and

technical staff. If we were to analyse the lecture's attendance level (over 100), compared to the overall attendance level to the conference (over 400 colleagues), we can say that the next steps to be taken by the RSP are already outlined, and there is definitely a need to think of a new super-specialisation in the future. The lecture, based on fundamental technical principles and guidelines was held by colleagues who currently practice this investigation, together with two well known specialists: Zeno Spârchez and Tudor Toma. A comparative analysis of the benefits of the use of this method versus other types of investigations was also made, including the possible types of accidents.

The conference was in fact a dissection of pleural pathology, down to the smallest details, with the important contribution of several specialists. Topics such as solitary pulmonary opacity, a diagnostic algorithm in pleural pathology, the contribution of ultrasound-guided transthoracic puncture, pleural pathology and smoking, pleural asbestosis, treatment of infectious pleurisy, chylothorax, pneumothorax, mesothelioma, were some of the topics of discussion. The conference also included a poster session where young fellows made their full contribution and a host of round table discussions on topics such as: "Facts and controversies on pleural pathology", "Management of pleural pathology - hopes in solving some equations" and "Thoracic pleuropulmonary pathology - a continuing challenge"

What did this exhibition bring? As we all noticed, we are witnessing a generational change, an increased interest in new investigation "grounds", insufficiently explored in Romania. The collective effort from Târgu Mureș, under the guidance of Prof. Gabriela Jimborean allowed pleural pathology to be brought back into attention, cultivated a multidisciplinary relationship that all pulmonologists seek and prepared us for a new super-specialisation. ■