SOME PHARMACISTS FROM THE HISTORY OF HOMEOPATHY IN ROMANIA

HONORIUS POPESCU1–3, GEORGE DAN MOGOŞANU3*, RALUCA PRĂTAŞ4

1Académie Internationale d’Histoire de la Pharmacie
2Department of Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmacy, “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, 12 Ion Creangă Street, 400010 Cluj-Napoca, Romania
3Department of Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, 2–4 Petru Rareș Street, 200349 Craiova, Romania
4National Medicines Agency, 48 Aviator Sănătescu Street, sector 1, 011478 Bucharest, Romania
*corresponding author: mogosanu2006@yahoo.com

Abstract
The pharmacists were the first authorized for the preparation of homeopathic remedies, before their industrial production. In Romania, in Bucharest, during the XIXth century, Iulius Rissdörfer and Friederich Nierescher were the first preparators of remedies. In the first mid of the XXth century the names of Erich Müller and Eugen Wittmayer in Sibiu, Dimitrie Caba, Iosef Lăzăroiu, Victor Iacobi and Alexandru Pop in Bucharest were associated with homeopathy. In 1947, Iacobi and Pop take part in the committee that founded the first Romanian Society of Homeopathy, immediately suppressed. After the political interdiction of homeopathy, in 1947 Victor Iacobi remained the only preparator of remedies in Romania, home working. In 1970, Iacobi instructed Cezarina Țuchel. In 1981, the pharmacists Honorius Popescu, Sorin Leucușa and Mihai Kory, from the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj, expressed and legalized in a contract the possibility of supplying the Romanian patients with remedies exclusively manufactured for the German market. In the Compartment of Homeopathic Remedies has worked Laurenția Ilea, and nowadays Romana Pop. Carmen Ponoran and Nelly Kinga Olah assure the quality of the products of “PlantExtrakt” Company, which in 1992 takes over and then developed the technical and scientific experience accumulated in the Microproduction Laboratory of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj. In 1990, at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Bucharest, Professor Dumitru Dobrescu PhD introduced the university lectures of homeopathy for the students of the 5th year. The Certificate of Complementary Studies of Homeopathic Pharmacy is granted on the basis of a postgraduate training in two classes: the first, common with the physicians, and the second, specific for the pharmacists and organized at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Bucharest by Professor Pharm. Aurelia Nicoleta Cristea, Ph.D.

Rezumat
Farmacistii au fost primii preparatori autorizați ai remediilor homeopate, înainte de producerea lor industrială. În România, Iulius Rissdörfer și Friederich Nierescher, din București, au fost primii preparatori de remedii în secolul al XIX-lea. În prima jumătate a secolului al XX-lea s-au remarcat Erich Müller și Eugen Wittmayer în Sibiu, Dimitrie Caba, Iosef Lăzăroiu, Victor Iacobi și Alexandru Pop în București. Iacobi și Pop au făcut
Introduction

At the beginning of the XIXth century, the well-known German physician Christian Samuel Friedrich Hahnemann (Meissen, 1755–Paris, 1843) had created the homeopathy as an alternative to the medical methods. In 1810, Hahnemann’s Manual, *Organon der rationellen Heilkunde*, was considered the first complete publication of the new therapy. After the first Hahnemann’s homeopathic pharmacopoeia, *Homöopathisches Arzneibuch*, published in 1860 by Ludwig Deventer, the pharmacists became the recognized preparators of remedies.

The relations between Hahnemann and pharmacists

Some events concerning the relations between Hahnemann and pharmacists are much known, one of them from conflicts and other referring to disciples of the great physician. Between 1812 and 1821, at the University of Leipzig, Hahnemann lectured from *Organon*. He had become undesirable, by his ceaseless criticism of the allopathic physicians. In the same period, prince Schwarzenberg died in his arms, because Hahnemann treated him without success. The allopathic physicians accused Hahnemann for his homeopathic treatments. They demanded to the law court the interdiction for Hahnemann to follow his profession or at least not to prepare himself his remedies. The conflict didn’t give them satisfaction, but it was opened again and won by the pharmacists. Through the sentence of November 30th 1820, it was interdicted for Hahnemann to prepare himself his remedies. He preferred to abandon the practice of medicine, because he was obliged to appeal to the services of the pharmacists in which he had no

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trust [1]. On the other hand, the pharmacists accredited by law as the only preparators of medicines want to take over also the preparation of the homeopathic remedies. Hahnemann knew they were not adapted to the exigencies of his technique. In this area, the publication of *Pharmacopoeia* of physician-pharmacist Ludwig Deventer was an achievement with great importance.

However, Dr. Hahnemann has very good relations with Dr. Pharm. Lehmann from Köthen village and Dr. Honigberger from Brașov city. In his book, *Früchte aus dem Morgenlande oder Reise-Erlebnisse* (Vienna, 1851), Johann Martin Honigberger (1795–1869) wrote that until he prepare his trip in the Orient, in 1835, he insisted to visit in Paris “the famous father of homeopathy”, and he wrote: “The distinguished old man and his pleasing wife welcome me in the most obliging manner. I was only about to say something, but the great homeopath, with a cordially frankness, offered me much more interesting explanations. I have considered much important my recommendation made to his pharmacist from Köthen, Dr. Lehmann, in which he referred precisely to a kit fully with homeopathic remedies”. Dr. Jacques Baur [2] selected this citation from the book of Honigberger, the famous Saxon living in Transylvania, which at the beginnings he started to be trainee in the pharmacies of Brașov and Bistrița [3].

*The XIXth century: Eduard Iulius Risşdörfcr (1822–1897) and Friederich Alfred Nierescher (1825–1873)*

In 1834, at Bucharest, Johann Georg Kraft, Saxon living in Transylvania, inhabitant of Brașov, was the physician who initiated the homeopathic treatments in Danubian Principalities. In 1859, Dr. Eduard Spech, another Transylvanian Saxon, had become the most active homeopath from Bucharest, together with the pharmacist Risşdörfcr, owner of the pharmacy “La Leul de Aur” (“At the Golden Lion”) [4].

The pharmacist Eduard Iulius Risşdörfcr (1822–1897) was from Brașov. In 1831, he entered at the Gymnasium of Sibiu. In 1838, in Bucharest, he became trainee in the pharmacy “La Vulturul Negru” (“At the Black Hawk”) of his uncle Josef Hammerschmidt. In 1848, he obtained his diploma of master in pharmacy in Vienna, and then he bought the pharmacy “La Leul de Aur”, in Bucharest, 21 Carol Street, “which he had managed until his death”. In 1862, he took part from the Commission for Pharmaceutical Tax. In 1865, he was appointed in the Commission for the second edition of the *Romanian Pharmacopoeia*, published in 1874, and in the Pharmaceutical Commission of the Superior Sanitary Council, until 1881 [5]. Long time he was president of the Pharmaceutical College
(Gremiul Farmaceutic), and contributor to the journal Romanian Medical Progress (Progresul Medical Român) [3]. The inspection from 1855 classified the Rissdörfer’s pharmacy, “La Leul de Aur”, in the first category [5]. In 1859, his pharmacy issued homeopathic remedies brought from Vienna by the physician Eduard Spech [4]. In November 28th 1859, the inspection ascertained that although the preparation of the medicines without receipt was interdicted, the pharmacy released some remedies after the formulas of Eduard Spech [6]. Other sources, established that in 1860 Dr. Carol Davila, inspector of the Sanitary Service, decided to interdict Dr. Spech to personally “deliver” homeopathic medicines, but only through the mediation of the pharmacist Rissdörfer [7].

The pharmacist Friederich Alfred Nierescher (1825–1873), Saxon living in Transylvania, was born in Bistriţa. In 1851, he was master in pharmacy in Vienna. In 1856, he settled in Bucharest. In the next year he bought the pharmacy “La Biserica cu Sfinţii” (“At the Church with Saints”), 67 Carol Avenue, which was set at auction by his owner Carol Weber. In 1860, the pharmacy received the approval to sell the homeopathic remedy “Dr. Drasch pills”, and carried on homeopathic activities until the XXth century. Nierescher had two sons: a pharmacist who died young, and a jurist. His biographers wrote that he let a considerable fortune as well as the blockhouses in Calea Rahovei, next to the Brancovean Hospital, separated by the “Nierescher Passage” (“Pasagiul Nierescher”) [3]. In 1985, the Brancovean Establishment was demolished at the order of Ceauşescu.

During the time of Rissdörfer and Nierescher, the authorities emitted the first directives referring to the homeopathic practices. Since February 6th 1863, the Superior Medical Council of Romania interdicted the homeopathic treatments in public establishments, but admitted them in private practice. The homeopathic remedies were released on receipts, and “the pharmacists must comply... with the homeopathic pharmacopoeia...” [8]. The Romanian authorities took notes of the spreading and intensification of homeopathic activities, and started to bring them under the incidence of legal dispositions.

In the first mid of the XXth century

At the beginning of the XXth century, in the Romanian territories, the homeopathy had more disciples and the pharmacists granted much more attention for the preparation of remedies.

In Sibiu, the Museum for the History of Pharmacy exhibits the prestigious collection of homeopathy from the pharmacy “La Îngerul” (“At the Angel”), nationalized in 1949. Possessing 2915 objects, the
collection is the most representative from Romania. Between the items exhibited, we found more recipients for homeopathic remedies, with original labels of the well-known specialty laboratories from Leipzig, Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, Stuttgart, Budapest, London, etc. [9].

The pharmacy “La Îngerul” was founded in Hermannstadt (Sibiu), in 1903, with the sign “Zum Engel”. In his writings, Theodor Paveleanu mentioned: “It could be noticed that in the pharmacy «Îngerul» the recipes for homeopathic treatment were prepared too” [10]. Another author, Guido Fabritius, specified that the pharmacy “La Îngerul” succeeded becoming known and appreciated in whole Transylvania for his homeopathic activities. The pharmacists from “Zum Engel” were István Czipott (between 1903 and 1907), Karl Morscher (between 1907 and 1911), and Fritz Müller (between 1911 and 1918). After the joining of Transylvania to the Old Romanian Kingdom, the pharmacy was named “La Îngerul”, at the address 40 Regina Maria Street. The pharmacists Eugen Wittmayer (between 1918 and 1933), and Dr. Hans Binder (between 1933 and 1949) worked over there [11].

From the other source, the section for homeopathic remedies was founded initially in the pharmacy “La Vulturul Negru”, and after that, in 1924, was transferred to the pharmacy “La Îngerul”, respectively to his owner Wittmayer [7]. The beginnings of the pharmacy “La Vulturul Negru” date back to 1494. Müller family, which took it into its property in 1808, gave five generations of pharmacists. Erich Müller was the last owner, starting from 1914 until the nationalization of the pharmacy in 1949 [12].

According to Cezarina Țuchel, between 1920 and 1940 the pharmacies “La Vulturul Negru” from Sibiu, “La Sfânti” (“At the Saints”), “Thais” and “La Ursu” (“At the Bear”) from Bucharest, prepared both allopathic and homeopathic remedies [8].

The pharmacy “La Sfânti” (“La Biserica cu Sfânti”) belonged to Friederich Nierescher. In 1860, the same pharmacy received the approbation for the remedy “Dr. Drasch pills”. In 1916, the owner of the pharmacy was Dr. Alfred Friederich Nierescher, licensed in pharmacy in Bucharest, in 1894. Dimitrie Caba, licensed in Bucharest, in 1895, took on leasing the pharmacy with 14.000 lei annually. Because he had in subordinate the assistants Silviu Hocman and Gheorghe Moraru only [12], he was responsible himself for the preparation of remedies. We could suppose that Alexandru Pop was the owner of the pharmacy “Thais”.

The pharmacy “La Ursu”, founded in 1818, 14 Patriei Street, became in 1910 the propriety of Victor Iacobi, licensed in Bucharest, in 1885. In 1916, the pharmacy was leased by Emil F. Sositrescu, helped by his colleague of promotion Alexandru Cepleanu, and by the trainee student
Ion L. Stamatescu [12]. In 1928, the pharmacy “La Ursu”, taken on leasing by the pharmacist Iosef Lăzăroiu, licensed in Bucharest in 1911, was the propriety of Iacobi’s successors [13]. In 1924, the pharmacy “La Ursu” becomes famous for the reason of the preparation of homeopathic remedies supplied from Sibiu, by the pharmacy “La Îngerul” [7].

During the years of the political interdiction of homeopathy

In 1947, at Bucharest, the physician internist Associate Professor Dr. N. Nicolicescu, Dr. C. Bărbulescu and their collaborators, founded the Romanian Society of Homeopathy, interdicted by the authorities. Among the founders were the pharmacists Victor Iacobi, owner of the pharmacy “La Ursu” and Alexandru Pop, probably owner of the pharmacy “Thais” [7]. Until the end of 1947, the political system dictated by the Soviet Union imposed the idea that the homeopathy is a false medicine, a “product” of the idealist ideology opposed to the science of Marxist-Leninist materialism. Consequently, the consulting rooms of homeopaths were closed, and the “error” was condemned in the universities. In 1949, the pharmacies “La Ursu” and “Thais” were not on the list of nationalization. Because they could become places for the interdicted appointments of homeopaths, they were closed in 1947, and their owners, Victor Iacobi and Alexandru Pop were considerate dangerous as leaders with influence. Victor Iacobi lived until 1974, and he remained in the history of Romanian homeopathy for his 25 years (1947–1972) in which was the only preparator of homeopathic remedies from the country. His activity was developed not in a pharmacy, but in his own home. During 1968 and 1972, in order to open a homeopathic pharmacy, he was authorized to supply with 400 vials of mother tinctures and triturations from the “Schwabe Laboratories” of Karlsruhe, and to instruct the pharmacist Cezarina Țuchel in the techniques of preparation of remedies [8]. However, after more then three decades of interdiction, the communist authorities officially recognized the practice of homeopathy in Romania.

The pharmacists’ contribution to the reviving of homeopathy in Romania

Abolished for a long time, the Romanian homeopathy resumed its feeble existence through modest initiatives, which conducted to the organization of Debating Society of Homeopathy in 1964, and then to a Methodological Centre at “Diham” Polyclinic, in Bucharest, in 1968. In 1968, the foundation of a homeopathic pharmacy was intended and the pharmacist Victor Iacobi was authorised to supply with mother
tinctures and triturations [5]. However, after another two years, in the place of the promised homeopathic pharmacy, only a section of homeopathy in No. 7 Pharmacy from Bucharest, 139 Calea Victoriei, was developed. Cezarina Țuchel worked over there, and in the same time Victor Iacobi instructed her [8].

Respecting with devotion the principles learned from Victor Iacobi, Cezarina Țuchel (July 2nd 1933–February 12th 2000) became successor in the preparation of homeopathic remedies, and manager of the pharmacy “HomeopataFarm”, in Bucharest, Aviației Quarter. She was the master, who joined the first team of professors of homeopathy conducted by Gheorghe Bungetzianu PhD (1916–2006). Enormously regretted, she was evoked by Ion Teleianu PhD (1929–2007): “A great personality, which devoted her entire life and everything she has good for the ideals of development of Romanian homeopathy, as no one else. She was knew and respected by the homeopaths from the interwar period, because the only homeopathic pharmacy, which the pharmacist Cezarina Țuchel served until his prematurely end of life, was the place of affliction and connection between few physicians that made their apostolate in this domain...” [7].

The first public debate of some problems of homeopathy, within the framework of the Union of the Societies for Medical Sciences (Uniunea Societăților de Științe Medicale – USSM), took place to the Symposia “Progresses and realizations in the area of Phytotherapy” organized in Sebeș city, October 6th 1979, by the pharmacist Horea Bucur [14]. Finally, July 17th 1981, in the session of Executive Board of the Ministry of Health, the practice of homeopathy in Romania was recognized. There were 34 years from the interdiction.

The Debating Society of Homeopathy became the Section of Homeopathy, with Gheorghe Bungetzianu PhD as president. Just after that official recognizing, courses for the instructions of novel homeopaths and the first symposia were organized.

However, a serious insufficiency not yet found a solution. There were no money for the import of the remedies. In the ’80s decade, the crisis of the communist economy was raised to an unbearable level. The lack in foreign currency, food, medicines, etc. created big problems for the population. The solving came from the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj. In November 1st 1981, at the “Romconsult” Import-Export Company from Bucharest, the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy from Cluj had signed a contract as manufacturer of mother tinctures and remedies for a West Germany partner. The signatories of the contract, the pharmacists Assoc. Prof. Dr. Honorius Popescu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sorin Leucuța and Assist.
Prof. Dr. Mihai Kory (1934–1994), have rejected firmly the addition of exclusivity proposed by the foreign partner, by which all the products must belong to “Pharmakosmetik GmbH Import–Export” Company from Hamburg. They imposed a new article, in the favour of supplying the homeopathic consulting rooms in Romania. In this way, at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj the Laboratory for the Microproduction of Medicines started the production of homeopathic remedies, marked with the acronym “FFCN” (initials of denomination Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj-Napoca).

In 1983, at the third speciality Symposia, organized in Bucharest, the scientific oral communication of professors from Cluj, about the novel activities of fabrication of mother tinctures, was received with great satisfaction by the plenum of homeopathic physicians from the country.

In 1985, the scientific and technologic researches made at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj were approved by the Commission of Medicines presided by Prof. Dumitru Dobrescu PhD. Consequently, the first 151 homeopathic remedies with the acronym “FFCN” were included in the Catalogue of Medicines of the Ministry of Health.

In 1986, in 14 cities were founded sections of homeopathy: Buzău, Brașov, Constanța, Cluj, Focșani, Galați, Hunedoara, Iași, Oradea, Ploiești,
Pitești, Slatina, Sibiu and Târgoviște. It was the direct consequence of the existence of a Romanian manufacturer of homeopathic remedies. In that year, “FFCN” Laboratory manufactured and supplied 14 kits of remedies; each kit comprised 60 remedies with impregnated granules, in two dilutions: 7 CH and 30 CH; for each dilution, 50 doses of 1 gram were established.

After the Anticommunist Revolution

The Compartment of Homeopathic Remedies from the Laboratory of Microproduction of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj reduced its activity, but still delivered its products to the specialized pharmacies in Cluj, Baia-Mare, Târgu-Jiu, Deva, Huedin, etc. [15]. The methodologies elaborated at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj, with great scientific exigency, were favourable to the beneficiary of the old contract. Meanwhile, the Faculty transferred the enriching and extending experience in the most known Romanian–German Company “PlantExtrakt”, founded in 1992, in Rădaia village, 14 km far from Cluj. In the Laboratory of Analytical Control of the “PlantExtrakt” Company, the pharmacists Carmen Ponoran, chief of the Laboratory [16] and Dr. Nelly Kinga Olah depose a competent activity for the quality assurance of the remedies.

At the Faculty of Pharmacy, “Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest, for the training of the young pharmacists in the field of homeopathy was contributed also the university lectures (elective course) for the students of the 5th year, introduced starting with 1990 by Prof. Dumitru Dobrescu PhD.

The Competence in Homeopathic Pharmacy was approved through the Order of the Health Minister (Order No. 923/18.12.2001, published in the Official Monitor No. 117/13.02.2002; further renamed Certificate of Complementary Studies of Homeopathic Pharmacy, through the Order of the Health Minister No. 418/20.04.2005), being granted on the basis of a postgraduate training in two classes: the first, common with the physicians, and the second, specific for the pharmacists and organized at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Bucharest by Prof. Pharm. Aurelia Nicoleta Cristea PhD responsible and author of the curricula.

Conclusions

Misunderstood and initially perceived as an annoying concurrent, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann had adversaries not only among the physicians, but also among the pharmacists. However, at least Dr. Lehmann, pharmacist from Köthen, and Dr. Johann Martin Honigberger, physician from Brașov, were his devoted disciples.
In the XIXth century, the pharmacists Iulius Rissdörfer and Friederich Nierescher, Saxons living in Transylvania and settled in Bucharest, were the first preparators of remedies in Romania.

In the mid of the XXth century, some pharmacists from Sibiu and Bucharest became famous for their homeopathic remedies.

In 1947, the pharmacists Victor Iacobi and Alexandru Pop were founding members of the Romanian Society of Homeopathy, soon interdicted by the communist authorities.

During the years of the politically interdiction of homeopathy, Victor Iacobi was the only preparator of remedies, which instructed the pharmacist Cezarina Țuchel.

Only in 1970, in No. 7 Pharmacy from Bucharest a homeopathic section was developed.

In 1981, in Romania, the supplying with homeopathic remedies became possible when at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj started the manufacturing of homeopathic remedies.

After the Anticommunist Revolution, “PlantExtrakt” Company took over and developed the technical and scientific experiences accumulated at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj.

In 1990, at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Bucharest, Prof. Dumitru Dobrescu PhD introduced the university lectures of homeopathy for the students of the 5th year.

The Certificate of Complementary Studies of Homeopathic Pharmacy is granted on the basis of a postgraduate training in two classes: the first, common with the physicians, and the second, specific for the pharmacists and organized at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Bucharest by Prof. Pharm. Aurelia Nicoleta Cristea PhD.

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