Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The remarkable progress in perinatal care, regionalization of perinatal care, the use of modern less-invasive technologies, and the development of clinical guidelines and protocols that are constantly updated have led to a significant decrease in neonatal mortality in Romania from 26.9‰ in 1990 to 6.2‰ in 2020. Early neonatal mortality has also shown a constant downward trend, being 2.4‰ in 2020.

Neonatology is the art and science of care for the most vulnerable patients. Neonatologists are the most involved, empathetic, and soulful doctors who come to support their little patients, newborns with high-risk or complex health conditions, who are fighting to live. They know that each newborn is unique and requires a particular approach, sometimes with challenges when it comes to decision-making. As a pioneer of neonatology in Romania, I witnessed the most impressive qualitative leap of a medical specialty after 1990. The beginning was humble, but gradually we made ourselves noticed among the consecrated medical specialties. We looked with concern, helplessness, and hope at the professional achievements of neonatologists from abroad, and we have had the desire to meet the standards and to get closer to what we have dreamed of. We have dreamed of applying the family-centered care principle in our maternities and NICUs, and we have dreamed of modern technology.

The Romanian Association of Neonatology (RAN) was founded in 1996 with the general goal of improving neonatal care in Romania. RAN organizes scientific events such as sessions, conferences, congresses, and workshops, which stimulate collaboration with professionals from around the world and provide high-quality postgraduate education. All these events cover a wide range of topics in neonatology, such as prematurity, respiratory support, surfactant therapy, neonatal nutrition, neonatal neurology, infection, neonatal hemodynamics, updates of guidelines, and holistic neonatal care. Currently, point-of-care ultrasound for neonatologists (POCUS) is a priority for RAN, it is welcomed, necessary, and very expected by neonatologists. Attending Summer and Winter schools has become a "must-have" for young neonatologists as they are the future of our specialty.

Starting from an objective reality in which young neonatologists are increasingly interested in research, the board of RAN has had the initiative to revive the old NEONATOLOGIA publication according to the latest “resuscitation guidelines”. Inspired by new ideas we hope to share our experience and to give research-based answers and solutions to unresolved problems.

All sails up and full speed ahead! It is in our power to do it!

Manuela Cucerea, MD, PhD
President of the Romanian Association of Neonatology

“Things are not hard to do. It’s hard to put yourself in the mood to do them”
- CONSTANTIN BRANCUSI