The past, present, and the future of Romanian Neonatology

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As the Honorary Editor of “The Newborn”, I want to express my profound gratitude to the Romanian Association of Neonatology’s leadership for their relentless efforts spanning three decades in elevating neonatal care in Romania.

One of the integral components to reaching this milestone is the establishment of a respected, authoritative, and cutting-edge journal. In order to achieve this, the recruitment of a highly esteemed editorial board and reviewers that critically and meticulously scrutinize each article before publication is paramount. The Journal’s quality will mature as demonstrated by improvement of the Impact Factor.

Following my inaugural visit to Romania in 1995, under the auspices on a general Pediatrics mission trip sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics of the University School of Medicine Louisville and the Humana Foundation, I identified an opportunity to influence the neonatal-perinatal care of an entire country. The initial step involved collaborating with multiple partners including the University of Iowa, Baylor University, and International Relief Team (IRT), as well as the Swiss government. We embraced the philosophy of “Train-the-Trainers” with didactic presentations, workshops, and providing contemporary medical textbooks and internet access where needed. To maximize our impact, we sought collaboration of the obstetrical-perinatal healthcare providers to enhance maternal and neonatal survival. Along with organizing symposia, we facilitated teams of Romanian physicians and nurses’ visits to travel to the United States, to gain firsthand experience of neonatal care in an academic environment.

In pursuit of excellence, Romania has implemented a well-funded Point-of-Care-Ultrasound (POCUS) program in the NICU, with nation-wide training program underway. This training is set to augment the application of this novel tool, providing important clinical data that could be lifesaving. This signifies a state-of-the-art advancement in neonatal care.

So, what has been achieved? The standard of neonatal-perinatal care in Romania has seen exponential growth and now stands on par with Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) globally. The Journal will play a pivotal role in future transformation by disseminating invaluable information to clinicians to make this possible. Survival rate have improved noticeably, and there has been a significant reduction in morbidities. As a result, advancements in neonatal medicine are leading to improved INTACT survival.

Congratulations on this remarkable endeavor. It is of paramount importance for the country of Romania.