

**The Contribution
of Iuliu Moldovan
on the Interrelation between
Drug and Society**

Cristian Barsu

MD., Ph.D., Assoc. Prof.

History of Medicine Dept.

Cluj University of Medicine and Pharmacy

Romania

The aim of the paper is to present two levels of I. Moldovan contributions in the field of the correlations between drugs and society.

Iuliu Moldovan
(1882-1966)

**was the first
professor at the
Department of
Hygiene and Social
Hygiene at the
Cluj Faculty of
Medicine
(1919-1947).**



Moldovan created the Cluj School of Social Hygiene. This School was the principal axis of the beginning of the modern public health in Romania.

- **Moldovan studied medicine in Vienna and Prague.**
- **Between 1908 and 1914 he was Assistant at the Central Bacteriological Laboratory of the Army in Vienna, directed by Robert Doerr.**



- In 1912 he improved his knowledge for two month in the Hamburg Tropical Institute, under the guidance of Josef Mathias Stanislaus von Prowazek (1875-1915) and Henrique da Rocha-Lima (1879-1956).
- In 1913 Moldovan worked two month at the “Pasteur Institute” in Paris, directed by Felix-Etienne-Pierre Mesnil (1868-1938).



- In 1915 Moldovan became docent at the Vienna Faculty of Medicine. This title was the first one obtained by a Romanian physician.



- During the First World War he initiated important actions against contagious illnesses. At that time he had a significant position: chief hygienist and director of the antiepidemic section of the Austro-Hungarian Army.
- Even in the dramatic condition of the First World War, Moldovan published a review “Feldärztliche Blatter”, which focused the campaign medicine.



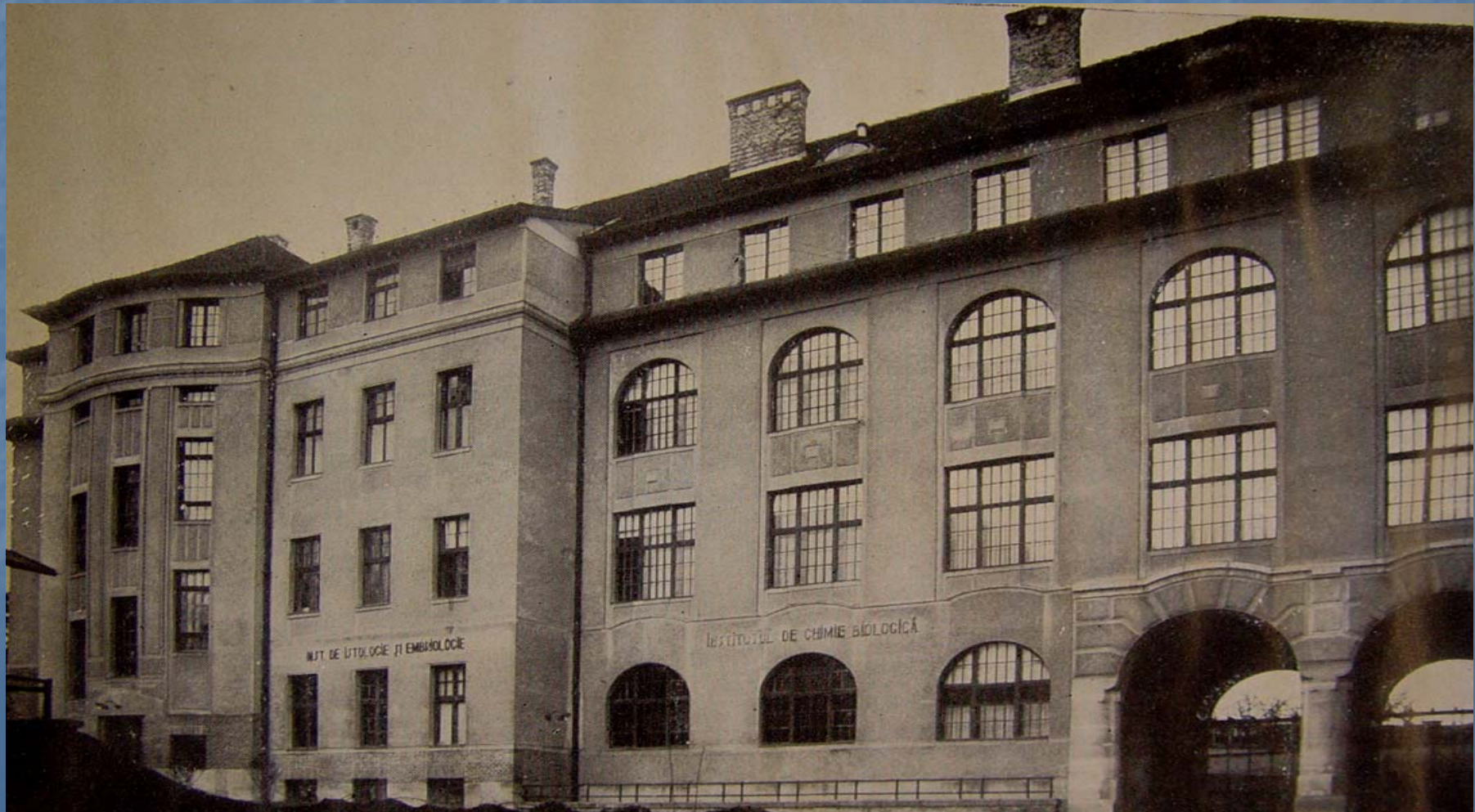
- In the 15th December 1918 he was elected General Secretary for Health and Social Assistance at the Department of Social Protection. This department was a part of the Ruling Council, which was the supreme authority in Transylvania and in Banat. These two Romanian provinces joined the Kingdom of Romania on 1st of December 1918. Moldovan had this important job for 14 month. During this period, he created a storehouse for drugs in Sibiu.



- In July 1919 Moldovan became member of the University Commission. This commission was created for selecting the academic stuff for the new University in Cluj. The University was composed by 4 faculties, one of them being the Faculty of Medicine.
- On the 1st September 1919 he became Professor and Director of the Hygiene and Social Hygiene Department of the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj.



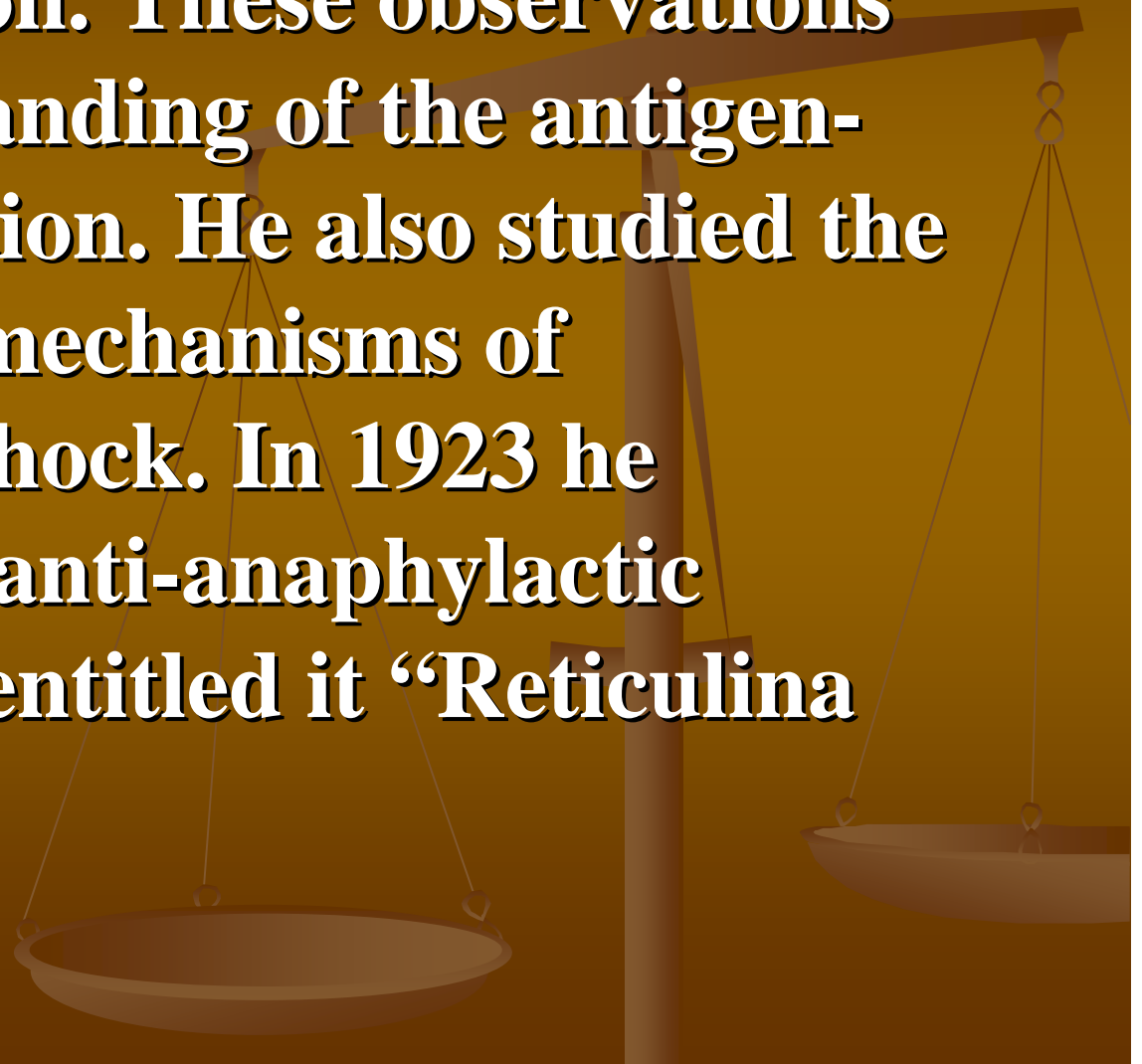
**“Pasteur” Institute in Cluj,
where was located
the Institute of Hygiene and Social Hygiene**



The Golden Generation of the Cluj Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy (1923)



- **During 40 years (1908-1947) Moldovan made researches about allergic reaction. These observations led to understanding of the antigen-antibody reaction. He also studied the physiological mechanisms of anaphylactic shock. In 1923 he discovered an anti-anaphylactic principle and entitled it “Reticulina M”.**



- The letter “M” was given as homage to Elie Metchinikoff (1845-1916) and proved the respect Moldovan had for the great immunologist.
- The “Reticulina M” was introduced in 1939 as a drug in clinical practice in different illnesses. It was used successfully in different infections, rheumatism and also in the prevention of anaphylactic shock.

- In 1928 Moldovan became General Secretary in the Health Ministry. Next year he gave an important decision regarding the establishment of the Chemico-Pharmaceutical Institute in Bucharest.
- The first director and organizer of this Institute became Professor Gheorghe P. Pamfil (1883-1965) – the founder and the leader of the Romanian Pharmaceutical learning in Cluj (1920-1934).

- In 1930 Moldovan was elected State Secretary in the Health Ministry. Having this important function, he elaborated a new law regarding health and social protection.
- This law remained in the Romanian history of medicine as “Moldovan’s law”. It is useful to know that for creating the project of this law Moldovan cooperated with Professor Gheorghe P. Pamfil.

- **Iuliu Moldovan remained in the history of medicine as one of the most important leaders in creating the modern public health in Romania.**