Dear Prof. Sorel,

Between 10-13 of April, Romania will host for the first time the Regional Congress of The World Psychiatric Association: how was it that Romania was chosen to host this exclusive Congress?

Thank you very much for the opportunity your magazine has provided me to address my Romanian colleagues. Romania has been chosen based on several factors.

The World Psychiatric Association has never organized such a Congress in Romania and were interested in the longstanding and splendid medical traditions in Romania. We also discussed the idea of South-East Europe and Eurasia as a launch site for cutting-edge projects, based on a solid collaboration between family medicine, psychiatry and public health. Concurrently the WPA appreciated very much the existing organizational capability, Romania’s innovative environment and existing, superior information and communication technology.

**What is the role of this world Congress for the Romanian psychiatry?**

This Congress provides our Romanian, psychiatry, family medicine and public health colleagues, with an unprecedented platform for a robust professional dialogue of mutual satisfaction and also of potential benefit for patients, especially those suffering from non-communicable diseases and their comorbidities. Presently there is only minimal collaboration in this field, not only in Romania but also globally.

**One of the organizers of this unprecedented congress is represented by the National Association of Family Medicine. Why should the family physicians take part in this event? What is the role of family physicians in attending to the psychiatry patients?**

Not only the psychiatric patients but also most of the family medicine patients will benefit from family physicians’ participation in this congress as there is a high prevalence of comorbidity among cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and depression.

**It is not a secret that you are a true leader, renowned worldwide, tell us what is the secret of a successful career?**
Perseverance, dedication, passion, mentors, blessings, luck and a family and loyal friends who have always been close to me and my personal and professional dreams and aspirations.

What made you choose this difficult profession?

Starting with my formative, student years, I was passionate about the intriguing psyche-soma relationship, and, at the same time, I was fascinated by the mysteries of the brain and its rapport with the rest of our body, its role in interpreting both our daily lives and our social and spiritual connections.

Were your steps guided by a personality in the field, have you had a mentor? If yes, can you tell us a few things about this?

An African idea mentions that it takes a whole village to raise a child. This saying applies to us physicians, too. I was blessed with eminent mentors during my formative New York and Yale years. Among them, I will mention just a few, apologizing to others I did not mention: They are professors Franz Reichsman - Psychosomatic Medicine; Ruth Lidz - Obstetrics, Gynecology, Psychiatry; Ted Lidz - Psychiatry; Maxwell Jones - Therapeutic Communities, Social Psychiatry & Health Systems; Ronald D. Laing – Buddhism, Health & Psychiatry, Therapeutic Communities; Robert J. Lifton - Man made disasters, Ethics in Medicine, Psychiatry and Political Decisions.

You are holding numerous important studies and have a broad experience in global health matters. Still what were your most important achievements? I mean those achievements that left a trace in your heart?

I was blessed with a series of accomplishments, God be praised. My greatest achievement is and always will be, my children Marc and Marie-Adele raised together with my wife, Christiane...!

In May 2013 will take place the launch of DSM 5, in San Francisco. Tell us, what are the novelties but also major changes that will be comprised in the Diagnostic Manual of Psychiatric Diseases?

We are inviting you to the WPA 2013 Bucharest Congress where we will have a workshop on this subject, Saturday, the 13-th of April.

What can you tell us about the “21st Century Global Mental Health” book that you edited in 2012?

It is an unprecedented volume dedicated to students in public health and family medicine. The book has been organized into several sections, well integrated, addressing epidemiology, health determining factors, health systems performance, individuals’ and populations’ health, human rights and health policy.

What are the most important projects you are working on at the moment?

Among the projects at the horizon I can refer to the following:

- Participation of a few of our residents involved in our Washington, DC - Career, Leadership & Mentorship program - in the WPA 2013 Bucharest Congress where they will have their workshops in the scientific program.
Leadership training - a workshop for Residents chosen by the American Psychiatry that I will be holding during the national Congress in San Francisco, in May, 2013.

Integration of family medicine and psychiatry - workshop in the same Congress in San Francisco.

Tendering Yves Pelicier prize for Science and Humanism as head of Jury of the World Association for Social Psychiatry, Lisbon, Portugal, June, this year.

Invitation by the Harvard University to present the lecture: Global Health: Contemporary American & Global Challenges & Opportunities, in April, this year.

Communicating about non-communicable diseases, lecture at Grand Challenges Canada, Toronto University, Canada, June, this year.

What do you think are the qualities a young should have to be able to follow a brilliant career, like yours?

Perseverance, dedication, passion, mentors, blessings, luck and a family and loyal friends who support our personal and professional dreams and aspirations.

What do you think are the most relevant differences between the Romanian and the American health systems?

We are cordially inviting you to the WPA 2013 Bucharest Congress where we will have several roundtables examining systems’ performance. Romania will be part of the Europe health systems’ performance roundtable along with Spain, Sweden and Slovenia. Romania will be represented by an outstanding physicians team including: Adina GEANA, Cristian TOMA and Cristian Sever OANA.

We will have the following Health Systems Performance Roundtables:

- Africa
- America
- Asia/Pacific
- Europe
- Global comparisons

We cordially invite all our colleagues to join us at this historic Congress!

Thank you very much.