

## Ladislau Steiner, M.D., Ph.D.

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I was born and grew up in a small Transylvanian city at the foot of the Carpathian mountains. At that time, one could still meet on the slopes, peacefully pasturing lambs with craniotomies carried out with a pocket knife by shepherds to excise epidural ticks.

I finished medical school at the University of Cluj-Napoca, a Roman settlement where the Roman legions tried to stem the waves of barbarian invasions from the East.

As student, being a “hospital extern”, I did research also in the physiological and pathological laboratories of the Romanian Academy of Science. I published as still student, papers on quantitative and biological estimation of acetylcholine and its presence in the CSF of schizophrenic and epileptic patients; the mechanism of sleep; conditioned reflexes; experimental brain injuries.

Following a period in the Department of Neurosurgery Berlin-Buch, I left through check-point Charlie to Stockholm and started to work in the Department of Neurosurgery in the Karolinska Institute with Leksell and Olivecrona as teachers. From 1962-1987, I was successively: resident, associate professor, docent attending and finally, Chief of one of the two Neurosurgical Departments in the Karolinska Hospital. In 1975, I defended my PhD thesis on “The mechanism of death in subarachnoid hemorrhages. An experimental study” in the Karolinska Institute. I left Karolinska in 1987 and since then I have been at the University of Virginia, Department of Neurological Surgery as Professor of Neurosurgery and Radiology.

I have published experimental and clinical papers and books on subarachnoid hemorrhage, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, pituitary adenomas, meningiomas, vestibular schwannomas, metastatic brain tumors, low and high grade astrocytomas, methods of volume assessment on CT, and MRI, immunology in gliomas, prostaglandins, leucotrens and Gamma surgery. I devised the first hemostatic titanium clip and among other neurosurgical instruments, a stereotactic guide for microsurgery.

I am founding, corresponding, or honorific member, president of national and international neurosurgical societies. I have organized meetings and symposiums, initiated and organized the Olivecrona and Leksell Lectures. I am a frequent invited lecturer, panelist, chairman, honorific president and scientific adviser. Sheline 1991 and Leksell lecturer 2001. Sugita award 2001, World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies Gold Medal of Honor, 2003.

My late wife, Melita Steiner, was a MD. Without her, my modest contributions to neurosurgery would have not been possible.

Our son, Eugene, MD, PhD, and his wife, Christine, MD, daughters, Svava and Embla, and son, Raven, live in Stockholm. Our son, Michael, MD in Mathematics, with sons, Isaac and Niels, live in Austin, Texas, USA.