

A century of pharmaceutical activity – Terapia

Professor Emeritus Dr. Honorius POPESCU

Faculty of Pharmacy, "Iuliu Hatieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Terapia, the pharmaceutical company from Cluj-Napoca, was originally named "*Terapia's Laboratory*". During its hundred years of active and successful existence, the company's name has changed successively to *Laboratory A. Egger & Co, Ufarom, Napochemia, Sintalgon, Chemical-Pharmaceutical Industry nr.3* before coming back to the name of *Terapia*.

After "the decline of Hungary in the fall of 1918", as professor Onisifor Ghibu (1883-1972), the founder of the Superior Dacia University, named the historic event, Transylvania unified with Romania, on the 1st of December 1918 (1). Furthermore, one year and a half later, when the treaty of Trianon was signed, on 4th of July 1920, Cluj became, as it truly deserved, a city of Romania (2).

Terapia Laboratory was established in Cluj, in 1920, as a part of the *Unicorn Pharmacy* which was located until recently on the "Piața Unirii" street, nr.10 (3).

Founded in 1685, *Unicorn Pharmacy*, was in 1918 in the property of pharmacist Dr. Iuliu Kohn, born on the 26th of May 1893 in Germany, where he will fulfill his studies and achieve the doctoral degree. The Romanian State had recognized his rights of property and his position as headmaster of the Unicorn Pharmacy, in accordance with the order nr. 18302 from the Ministry of Health, communicated by the Pharmaceutical Directorate, subsection Pharmacy, nr. 2644 from 3rd of December 1920. After the nationalization which was instituted in 1949, the old *Unicorn Pharmacy* was renamed *Pharmacy nr. 5* (4).

The founders of *Terapia Laboratory*, "destined for production of opotherapy medication", were Adalbert Reinhold and Wilhelm Stern (3).

Opotherapy medication are in general extracts, medical juices and powders made from tissues, organs, or endocrine glands which are conditioned as pharmaceutical forms (solutions for injection, tablets, powders, syrups etc.). In the current therapeutical activity we still find examples of such products: thyroid extract, bovine bile extract etc. These formulations become of high utility when the active substance that they contain is in a shortage in the organism, which can lead to serious deficiencies if not addressed and treated.

The discovery and production of hormones as pharmaceutical forms has reduced attention from opotherapy development and utilization.

In the same year, 1920, within Superior Dacia University, pharmacist professor Dr. Gheorghe P. Pamfil (1883-1965) established, as a department of specialized higher education, *The Pharmaceutical Institute*. In that regard, he lectured his students on opotherapeutical products, until 1934.

The initiative to lecture at Cluj the knowledge of chemical composition and formulation techniques of opotherapy was, obviously, closely linked to the activity of *Terapia Laboratory*. Nowhere in Romania was a lecture like this being held (5).

In 1923, *Terapia Laboratory* merged with a similar establishment from Austria named *A. Egger Sohn*. Consequently, the name of the company from Cluj became *A. Egger & Co. Laboratory* (3).

In the year of 1931, Wilhelm Stern became the sole owner of the company (3).

After a short period of time, again, changed its name to *Ufarom*. The new title was in fact an abbreviation from Romanian Pharmaceutical Factories (3).

Another change occurred as a consequence of the “short-lived handover” of Cluj and Northern Transylvania to Hungary in the 30th of August 1940. At that time, the facility was named *Napochemia* (3).

After the “nationalization of the main means of production” operated by the communist regime on the 11th of June 1948, the company was first affiliated to the Corvin Laboratory, which produced calcium gluconate, and then it was annexed to the Reticulin Laboratory (3).

During the communist regime, the “enterprise” produced both the calcium gluconate and the reticulin, therefore the processes of affiliation and annexation could have been carried out for the benefit of the old *Napochemia* company.

Regarding the production of the injectable ophthalmological formulation Reticulin, the major scientific contribution of Dr. Ion Manta, biochemistry professor from the Medicine University, licensed in chemistry and pharmacy, must be stated (5).

In the year of 1948, through nationalization, the company changed its owner. It came into the property of the state, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health, and it was renamed *Sintargon*.

The changes did not last long, as in 1954 what used to be known as *Terapia* was moved under the coordination of the Ministry of Chemistry and was again renamed, becoming The Chemical-Pharmaceutical Industry nr.3.

The return to the original title, *Terapia*, came short after, in 1957 (3), when it was registered as *The Enterprise of Medication Terapia*.

Two years after the anti-communist revolution, on 12th of November 1991, *The Enterprise of Medication Terapia* became a commercial enterprise and in 1996 entered in a process of privatization, in accordance to the law nr.55 from 1955.

Nowadays, *Terapia S.A*, located on the “Fabricii” street nr.124 in Cluj-Napoca, is a component of the *Sun Wave Pharma* (from Mumbai, India) and one of the biggest producers of generic medication from Romania.

REFERENCES

1. GHIBU O. La a douăzecea aniversare a Universității Daciei Superioare. Institutul de Arte Grafice „Ardealul”, Cluj, 1939
2. DJUVARA N. O scurtă istorie a românilor povestită celor tineri. Ed. Humanitas, București, 2010.
3. LIPAN V.I. Istoria farmaciei române în date. Ed. Farmaceutică, București, 2009, p. 250.
4. PAVELEANU T.D. Istoria farmaciilor din Transilvania, vol. III Nord-Vestul, Vestul și Centrul Transilvaniei. Ed. Universității Transilvania Brașov, 2004, p. 133, 134, 154.
5. POPESCU H. Profesori și studenți în Facultatea de Farmacie din Cluj, de-a lungul timpului. Ed. Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca, 2009, p. 41, 187.