

PHARMACISTS PROFESSORS IN “FRANZ JOSEPH” UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ (1893–1918)

HONORIUS POPESCU¹, GEORGE DAN MOGOȘANU^{2*}, DANIELA BENEDEC¹

¹*Department of Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmacy, “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, 12 Ion Creangă Street, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

²*Department of Pharmacognosy & Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, 2-4 Petru Rareș Street, 200349 Craiova, Romania*

**corresponding author: mogosanu2006@yahoo.com*

Abstract

During 1872–1918, in “Franz Joseph” Royal Hungarian University (*Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem*), the training of pharmacy students was consecutive to three years of practical training period, as pharmacy pupil. In the first 11 years, the pharmacy education has been supported by botanists, chemists and physicians. From 1883 until 1890, Dr. György Hintz was the first pharmacist who lectured at the Hungarian University. His followers were pharmacists Hugó Issekutz and Áron Ferencz. Another pharmacist, Zsigmond Jakabházy taught pharmacognosy. Dr. Gyula Órient (Iuliu Orient) has taught toxicology and he was the initiator of the studies and museology of the history of pharmacy.

Rezumat

În perioada 1872–1918, în Universitatea Regală Maghiară „Franz Joseph” (*Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem*), pregătirea studenților farmaciști era consecutivă stagiului practic de trei ani, ca elev în farmacie. În primii 11 ani, învățământul farmaceutic a fost susținut de profesori botaniști, chimiști și medici. Din 1883 și până în 1890, dr. György Hintz a fost primul farmacist care a ținut cursuri în Universitatea Maghiară. Continuatorii săi au fost farmaciștii Hugó Issekutz și Áron Ferencz. Un alt farmacist, Zsigmond Jakabházy, a predat farmacognozia. Dr. Gyula Órient (Iuliu Orient) a predat toxicologia și a fost inițiatorul studiilor și muzeisticii de istoria farmaciei.

Keywords: pharmacists professors, “Franz Joseph” University.

Introduction

In the history of pharmacy higher education in Cluj, the period of 46 years, which elapsed between 1872 and 1918, constitutes the first stage. Certainly, it was a historic step of the Hungarian studies. In Transylvania, until 1872, the graduates of Universities of Vienna and Pest exerted the profession of pharmacist. In Cluj, the setting up of pharmacy higher education in “Franz Joseph” Royal Hungarian University (*Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem*) was an important event [1-8].

Pharmacy studies were made in the Faculty of Medicine, organized in institutions and clinics, on the model of the University of Vienna. For the admission to university, secondary school graduates made three years of practice in pharmacy, as pharmacy pupils, the so-called “tirocinal” training. In Latin, *tironum* means student. The training was recognized by the promotion of an exam in front of the county or city chief physician. With the certificate issued by the chief physician, the candidate could register at the university, where he was admitted after the passing of the “tirocinal” exam. The students’ training had a duration of one year. The first semester included a program of lectures and laboratory works with professors from the Faculty of Science, and the second semester a program organized in the Faculty of Medicine [1–8].

In the first 30 years, 1092 students attended the pharmacy lectures, which ment an average of 36 graduates annually. The series of 1872 had only five students. The Faculty of Medicine of “Franz Joseph” University held the PhD programme and issued 46 diploma of PhD in pharmacy [1–8].

Throughout history, the number of pharmacy university professors was never enough. The causes were historical and material conditions, both equally. Historically, the common origin of medicine and pharmacy, the late separation of the two professions and the relations between them, explain, in part, the delaying of initiation of pharmaceutical education and its addiction at the medical faculties. The development of pharmacy higher schools has happened so in the background and at first physicians taught the pharmacy.

From the economic point of view, a good pharmacist, under normal conditions, had no reason to abandon the profession, which was originally dedicated, because the education never offered high earnings. On the other hand, high school graduates did not start to study pharmacy with the intention of becoming teachers. The attraction for the pharmaceutical activity was determinant. The call for work in the field of education, known as a teaching talent, was the vocation of training others.

Because of the lack of pharmacists in academic staff in the first 11 years of activity, in “Franz Joseph” University the lectures for pharmacy students were taught by botanists, chemists and physicians. Since 1883, some pharmacists have served the higher education in Cluj: György Hintz, Hugó Issekutz, Áron Ferencz, Zsigmond Jakabházy and Gyula Órient.

György Hintz (1840–1890)

In Cluj, the pharmacist György Hintz was the first professor of Pharmaceutical Technology. It was first named Gheorghe, after the name of the head of the pharmacy which entered in the ownership of Hintz family, in the second half of the XIXth century. It was “Sf. Gheorghe” (“St. George”)

Pharmacy, located right in downtown Cluj, in No. 28 Unirii Square. “Sf. Gheorghe” Pharmacy was founded in 1710, nationalized in 1949, and then turned into a Museum for the History of Pharmacy [3, 4, 6–9].



Figure 1

Hintz House in Cluj (ground floor, the Museum for the History of Pharmacy).

György Hintz was born on September 4th, 1840, in Cluj, graduated the Unitarian Gymnasium, paid the internship and then practiced in Sibiu, in “Vulturul Negru” (“Black Eagle”) Pharmacy belonging to the pharmacist Karl Müller. In 1862, he obtained the degree in pharmacy at Pest and in 1863 he obtained his PhD in chemistry [3, 4, 6–9].

Starting from the academic year 1883–1884, Dr. György Hintz worked in education with the physician professor Árpád Bokay, newly appointed head of the Institute of General Pathology, Therapeutics and Pharmacology, at the Faculty of Medicine of the “Franz Joseph” University. In the Institute, until 1890, Dr. György Hintz taught students the “Practice of the preparation of recipes” (Pharmaceutical Technology), remained in manuscript. He was entitled private-docent, title comparable to associate professor [2–4, 6–9].

His son, Dr. György Károly Hintz Jr. (1874–1956), and his nephew

György Hintz (1912–1989) were successively the owners of “Sf. Gheorghe” Pharmacy. One of the great-grandsons, György József Hintz (1939–1992), was a lecturer at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in the Faculty of Pharmacy of Cluj [3, 4, 6–9].

Hugó Issekutz (1855–1915)

The pharmacist Hugó Issekutz, collaborator and then successor of György Hintz, was the second professor of Pharmaceutical Technique in Cluj. He was born on June 19th, 1855, in Odorheiu Secuiesc City, Harghita County [3, 4, 6–9].

Over time, several members of the Issekutz family devoted themselves to pharmaceutical profession. Ferenc Antal Issekutz, born in 1753 in Dumbrăveni City, Sibiu County, became master in pharmacy in Pest, in 1775. In 1795, he was in Sibiu, “Vulturul Imperial” (“Imperial Eagle”) Pharmacy. Ferenc Tivádár Issekutz, born in 1780, began his apprenticeship in a pharmacy in Pest in 1804. After 1823, he moved from Sibiu to Alba Iulia. A third family successor, Károly Issekutz obtained the diploma in pharmacy in 1817, at age of 23 years, in Pest [3, 4, 6–9].

Hugó Issekutz, the son of Adeodat Issekutz, became private-docent of Pharmaceutical Technique in Cluj. He attended the Reformed College of Târgu-Mureş. In Cluj, on January 11th, 1876, he took the degree in pharmacy, and on May 30th, 1876, the master degree. On July 9th, 1882, he received his PhD degree with the thesis “Studies on the naphthalene polysubstitutes derivatives” [3–9].

In 1890, after Dr. György Hintz died, Dr. Hugó Issekutz, his collaborator and successor, started teaching the lectures of Pharmaceutical Technology in “Franz Joseph” University. He was appointed private-docent on November 26th, 1892, and the title has been formalized in writing on January 17th, 1893. Dr. Hugó Issekutz had the merit for the obtaining the ministerial decision of November 21st, 1902, for founding the University Pharmacy, which served the clinics of the “Carolina” Hospital. He was appointed as “university pharmacist”, and from January 1st 1904, became chief of the Pharmacy [3, 4, 6–9].

The previous year, Dr. Hugó Issekutz brought in the new pharmacy a university assistant in the person of the pharmacist Áron Ferencz. In the academic year 1910–1911, a second assistant, pharmacist Gyula Cseresznyés, was employed. Gyula Cseresznyés was born on March 20th, 1881, in Aiud City. In 1906, he took his diploma at the Faculty of Medicine in Cluj. In 1913, he took his PhD with the thesis “On the nicotine content of different tobacco products, especially of Egyptian cigarettes and the utility

of nicotine dosing methods”. Between the years 1920–1922, Cseresznyés worked as assistant in the “King Ferdinand I” University, after retiring from teaching, on October 1st, 1919 [3, 4, 6–9].

In 1912–1913, when Áron Ferencz was promoted pharmacist analyst, the second assistant of Hugó Issekutz became the pharmacist Elvira Fáy, who was replaced in the next year by the pharmacist Jenő Huszár.

Hugó Issekutz collaborated with Zsigmond Jakabházy for the two editions of “Textbook of Pharmacognosy” in Hungarian. Dr. Hugó Issekutz died on June 23rd, 1915.



Figure 2

View from the East of the building in No. 8 Victor Babeş Street, demolished in 2002 for the construction of “Iuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy headquarter. In 1903–1915, it sheltered the University Pharmacy (*Egyetemi Gyógyszerezsz*) and since 1913 the Institute of Pharmacognosy (*Gyógyszerismereti Intézet*).

Áron Ferencz (1880–1954)

Since 1915, when he became the director of the University Pharmacy, the pharmacist Áron Ferencz taught Pharmaceutical Technology.

Áron Ferencz was born in Aita Mare Village, Covasna County, on October 15th, 1880. He graduated the pharmaceutical studies in Cluj, in 1903, and became the assistant of Hugó Issekutz. In 1905, he obtained his PhD with the thesis “On the histology and chemistry of *Aristolochia clematitis* plant”. In 1912, he was appointed as pharmacist analyst in University Pharmacy. In 1915, taught the lectures of Pharmaceutical Technology, keeping the analyst position. He was certified private-docent on May 26th 1916 [3, 4, 6–9].

Since 1917, besides the university assistants Dr. Gyula Cseresznyés and Jenő Huszár, Dr. Áron Ferencz had also an honorary assistant, the young Dr. David Lajos, which worked as a junior assistant since 1911. He was licensed in 1913, and in 1915 took his PhD with thesis “On the dosing of hydrastin content of root and extract of *Hydrastis canadensis* L., after different methods of pharmacopoeias and on a new dosage of berberine content in *Berberis vulgaris* L. extract” [3, 4, 6–9].

Dr. Áron Ferencz retired on October 1st, 1919, after “Franz Joseph” University was replaced with “Superior Dacia” University [1]. Also, he was a professor in Cluj, between 1941–1944, in Hungarian University temporarily reorganized following the Vienna Dictate. Exiled in Hungary, Dr. Áron Ferencz died in Ujpest, on April 22nd, 1954.

Zsigmond Jakabházy (1876–1945)

The first professor of Pharmacognosy in Cluj was the pharmacist Zsigmond Jakabházy, appointed on January 27th, 1913, as director of the Institute of Pharmacognosy of “Franz Joseph” University [3, 4, 6–9].

Zsigmond Jakabházy sustained his PhD in 1891, and followed internships at the universities of Strasbourg, Leipzig and Graz.

In 1895, he published, in collaboration with Géza Nyiredy and Hugó Issekutz, an important volume of 771 pages entitled “*Gyógyszerisme, magyarszó szoveggel a Magyar Gyógyszerkonyv 2. Kiadasahoz orvosi es gyógyszerésznövendékek használatára*”, Dobrowszky és Franke Publishers, Cluj. It was a Pharmacognosy textbook, updated by the second edition of the Hungarian Pharmacopoeia. In 1913, he published, also in Cluj, the textbook “*A gyógyszerismeret tankönyve. I–II Kötet*”, with approx. 360 pages, this time having Hugó Issekutz as the sole contributor [3, 4, 6–9].



Figure 3

Building of No. 8 Victor Babeş Street (image of the courtyard).

During 1896–1899, Jakabházy was university assistant at Pharmacology, under Prof. Dr. Lajos Tóth and under the leadership of Prof. Dr. József Lote, director of the Institute of General Pathology, Therapeutics and Pharmacology. In the academic year 1897–1898, the two departments of the Institute – (I) General Pathology and Therapeutics and (II) Pharmacology, which included Pharmacognosy – were transferred to a larger space, in No. 8 Trefort Street today Victor Babeş Street. Here, Pharmacognosy had, in the very high garret, two lockers for drying medicinal plants, and in a room called “The Pharmaceutical Museum” a collection of samples of herbal drugs of medicinal interest [2, 3, 8].

Efforts for elaborating specialty books, moving of the Institute, organizing of Pharmacognosy in a new building and especially the capacities that Jakabházy shown, brought him in 1899 to the university degree of lecturer.

In 1912, Jakabházy became private-docent in Pharmacology. In the Department of Pharmacology, he led and taught Pharmacognosy. In 1913, Jakabházy was appointed professor and director of the Institute of Pharmacognosy, which he split from the Institute of Pharmacology. Soon after its foundation, Pál Halász was hired as an assistant, who in 1913–1914 was still a student. Halász took his pharmacy diploma in 1915. In 1916–1918, he was assistant professor and in 1918 took his PhD [3, 4, 6–9].

After Hungary's entry in the war, in 1916, Professor Jakabházy never had a junior assistant and no analyst employed in 1914. In 1921, Jakabházy became member in the first Steering Committee of the Association of Pharmacists in Transylvania and Banat, and during 1934–1937, a member of the College of Pharmacists of Cluj County, while he was a pharmacist in Bonțida Village [3, 4, 6–9].

Gabriella Lengyel, from Cristuru-Secuiesc City, was also a collaborator of Jakabházy, as a junior assistant, from 1913, when she was still a student, until 1916, when she graduated pharmacy. In 1917, she was employed in the University Pharmacy, where she worked for two years. In 1918, she sustained the doctoral dissertation entitled "*Synergismus es capillaractivitas II. Digitalis and hatású drogok*" ("Synergism and capillary activity II. Digitalis and effects of drugs"). She was the first woman with a PhD in pharmacy obtained in Cluj. Since 1920, she was among the members of the Association of Pharmacists from Transylvania and Banat, and among the collaborators of the "Pharmaco-Courrier" Journal [2–4, 8].

Gyula Órient (1869–1940)

Gyula Órient (Iuliu Orient), a complex and very active character, was a pharmacist and physician. He taught Toxicology and was mostly concerned with the History of Pharmacy. Gyula Órient was born in Maramureș Region, in Bocicoiul Mare Village, on October 12th, 1869. He graduated the high school in Roznava (Slovakia) and in 1891 took the degree in pharmacy at the University of Budapest [3, 4, 6–9].

Until 1898, he was a pharmacist in Csetnek/Štítňik City (Slovakia) and then he taught, as a university assistant, "The practice of pharmacy" in "Franz Joseph" Royal Hungarian University [3, 4, 6–9].

In 1900, he took his PhD in pharmacy with the thesis "The application of sodium ligosinate in wine analysis". In 1906, he took a second doctorate, this time in medicine. Among other things, he was granted as honorary physician of Cluj City. In 1917, he introduced the lectures of Toxicology in the university, which he called "Lectures of biological and toxicological analyses". In 1918, he was promoted private-docent. In 1921–1922, he taught the lectures of Pharmacognosy, as substitute [3, 4, 6–9].

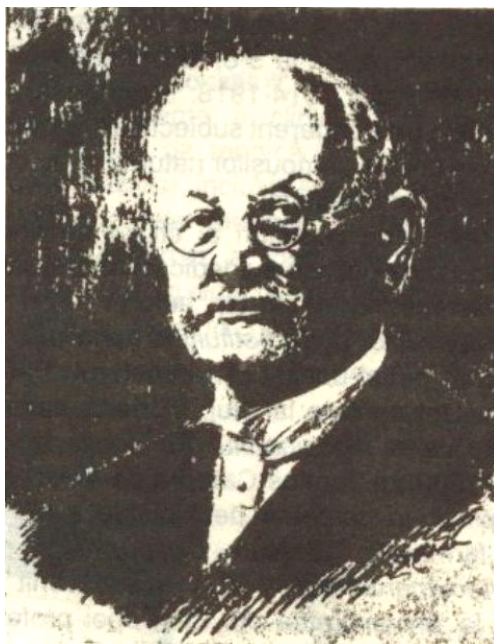


Figure 4

Gyula Órient (Iuliu Orient), Associate Professor, PhD

Gyula Órient was probably one of the three Hungarian professors who have continued in the newly founded academic world of Romanian City of Cluj. After Onisifor Ghibu, in 1919, only three Hungarian professors took the oath of allegiance to Romania and King Ferdinand I [1].

Among the most persistent concerns of Iuliu Orient it should be noted the collecting of pharmaceutical pieces with historical value, the oldest from the year 1480. He wrote that has collected since 1897, year after year, pharmaceutical furniture from XVIIth century, pharmacy pots of glass and faience from XVIIIth and XIXth centuries, old pharmacy diplomas. One of diploma, written on parchment, was from 1760. In 1905, with its collection of 1500 objects, Órient founded "The Pharmaceutical Museum" [3, 4, 6–9].

Dr. Samuel Izsák, from the Department of Professor V. L. Bologa, was delegated to collect and bring pieces of historical value in the nationalized pharmacies (1949). He added to the collection of Iuliu Orient, many valuable pieces from the pharmacies in Alba Iulia, Baia Mare, Cluj, Gherla Oradea, Turda. Thus, in 1954, The Museum for the History of Pharmacy was founded in Cluj, and installed in "Sf. Gheorghe" Pharmacy belonging to the Hintz' pharmacists. Currently, under the name of "Collection for the History of Pharmacy in Cluj", the old museum is a

division of The National Museum of Transylvanian History [3, 4, 6–9].

Dr. Gyula Órient has published many research papers of toxicology, forensic chemistry, biology, phytochemistry, history of pharmacy, in foreign and Romanian journals. He also has published several volumes. *Az Erdélyi és Bánáti Gyógyszerészet Története* (“History of Pharmacy in Transylvania and Banat”) is the book appeared in 1926, at Minerva Publishing House in Cluj. Next year, most of the book was written in Romanian, in a volume entitled “History of Pharmacy in Transylvania”, at “Cartea Românească” Publishing House in Cluj [3, 4, 6–9].

“Notes from biological and toxicological analyses” appeared in 1927 and other three papers were published in 1929: *Erdélyi alchimisták, Bethlen Gábor fejedelem alchimiája* (“Alchemists of Transylvania, Bethlen Gabor prince alchemist”), *Einfluss des deutschen Geistes auf die Entstehung und Entwicklung der Pharmazie in Siebenbürgen* (“Influence of the German spirit on the origin and development of pharmacy in Transylvania”), and *Die Geschichte der Pharmazie des Altreiches Rumänien* (“The History of Pharmacy in the Romanian Old Kingdom”). The volume “Elements of medical toxicology”, prefaced by Professor Iuliu Hațieganu, was published in 1934. Iuliu Orient was a member of several scientific societies, among them *Société Française d'Histoire de la Médecine* in Paris. In 1934, Gyula Órient has retired. He died in Cluj, in 1940 [3, 4, 6–9].

Conclusions

The interval of 46 years, between 1872 and 1918, represents the first stage of pharmacy higher education in Cluj. In “Franz Joseph” Royal Hungarian University, in the first 11 years, the pharmacy education was supported by botanists, chemists and physicians.

Between 1883 and 1890, the pharmacist György Hintz taught Pharmaceutical Technology.

Hugó Issekutz organized the University Pharmacy. He was Hintz’ successor and contributor of the two editions of Zsigmond Jakabházy “Textbook of Pharmacognosy”.

Áron Ferencz was a pharmacist analyst, Issekutz’s successor to the Pharmaceutical Technology and director of the University Pharmacy.

Zsigmond Jakabházy was professor of Pharmacognosy, author of a specialty textbook in two editions, founder and organizer of the Institute of Pharmacognosy of the Hungarian University.

The pharmacist and physician, Gyula Órient introduced the lectures of Toxicology and in 1918 became associate professor. In the History of Pharmacy, he was the initiator of the writings and museology.

References

1. Ghibu O., Universitatea Daciei Superioare, Atelierele Grafice Cultura Națională, București, 1929.
2. Lőte J., L'Institut de Pathologie Générale et Expérimentale. L'Institut de Pharmacologie, Les facultés de médecine des universités royales hongroises de Budapest et de Kolozsvár, Imprimerie de la Société anonyme "Franklin", Budapest, 1909.
3. Péter H. Mária, Az erdélyi gyógyszerészet magyar vonatkozásai, Az Erdélyi Múzeum–Egyesület kiadása, Kolozsvár, 2002.
4. Popescu H., Histoire de la pharmacie des cliniques universitaires de Cluj, *Revue d'Histoire de la Pharmacie*, 1996, XLIV(312):188–192.
5. Popescu H., Profesori și studenți în Facultatea de Farmacie din Cluj de-a lungul timpului, Ed. Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca, 2009.
6. Rusu Gabriela, Popescu H., Medical Higher Education in Cluj. In: Pușcaș V. (red.), University and Society, University Press, Cluj, 1999.
7. Spielmann J., Baicu Graziella (red.), Istoria științelor farmaceutice în România, Ed. Medicală Amaltea, București, 1994.
8. Szabó D., Emlékkönyv a Kolozsvári Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudomány-egyetem, Kolozsvár, 1903.
9. ***, Clujeni ai secolului 20 – dicționar esențial, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2000.

Manuscript received: May 26th 2010