


PERSONAL INFORMATION Irinel Popescu

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WORK EXPERIENCE

2006–Present Head of “Dan Setlacec” Center of General Surgery and Liver Transplantation
Fundeni Clinical Institute, Bucharest (Romania)

2016–Present Professor of Surgery
Titu Maiorescu University, Faculty of Medicine

1999–2016 Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine
“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (Romania)
2018

2011–Present President of Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences
Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences, Bucharest (Romania)

1995–1999 Associate Professor
“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (Romania)

1992–1995 Lecturer
“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (Romania)

1983–1992 Assistant professor
“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (Romania)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1971–1977 M.D.
“Carol Davila” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (Romania)
General medicine

1980–1983 Surgeon
Fundeni Clinical Institute, Bucharest (Romania)

1990	Postgraduate training in liver surgery and liver transplantation Hôpital Paul-Brousse, Paris (France)
1985–1990	PhD "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (Romania) Title of the doctoral thesis: "Acute Hemorrhagic Gastric Ulcerations" Leader - Prof. Dr. Dan Setlacec
1989	Postgraduate training in liver surgery and liver transplantation Charite Hospital, Berlin (Germany)
2000	Certificate of specialization in esophageal surgery, oncologic surgery, liver surgery and liver transplantation Ministry of Health / National Training Center, Bucharest (Romania)
2000	Certificate of Competence in laparoscopic surgery Ministry of Health / National Training Center, Bucharest (Romania)
1992–1994	Research Fellow: Liver Transplantation Division Liver Transplantation Division- The Mount Sinai Hospital, New York (United States)
1992	Research Fellow: Liver Transplantation Dept University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (United States)
1992	Postgraduate training in liver surgery and liver transplantation Liver Transplantation Dept.-University of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania (United States)

Personal contributions:

- In 2000 liver transplant as a therapeutic method in Romania was introduced. Today, liver transplant program in Romania is presented as one of the most valuable in Europe, with a total of 913 liver transplants, in terms of survival, with similar results of international centers.
- In 2013 - with the local team was performing first liver transplant in Moldova.
- In 2014 the establishment of the second liver transplant center at St. Mary's Hospital where was performed 34 liver transplants so far.
- Internationally recognized contributions in pancreas surgery (posterior approach and total resection of mesopancreas in pancreatic head cancer) published in journals: Hepatogastroenterology, European Journal of Surgical Oncology and Langenbeck's Archives of Surgery;
- Development of two dedicated chapters in pancreatic surgery in an International Treaty of advanced surgical techniques

appeared in 2012 in Elsevier under the coordination of Prof. Vijay Khatri (University of California, Davis School of Medicine, Sacramento, USA)

- Establishment of a Myasthenia gravis surgery program, the results of which were published in the journal *Annals of Surgery*, the most prestigious journal in the field of surgery in the world. Among the outstanding achievements in the medical field mention the introduction of robotic surgery in Romania, acquiring significant experience (1,000 surgeries).

Contributing to the development of translational research:

- In the field of *liver transplantation* - publishing articles with original techniques, some of them being firsts for Romania or internationally. Mentioned liver transplantation divided (a liver for 2 receivers) and Transplantation "dual graft" (2 fragments of liver to a recipient). Article domino liver transplant in familial hypercholesterolemia worked with the team Acad Simonescu Maya was published in the prestigious journal *transplantation: Transplantation*. Subsequently, two other articles on the same topic were published in *Clinical Transplantation* and *Liver Transplantation* in. It has been shown in these articles, for the first time in the world, the possibility of using liver with familial hypercholesterolemia from another patient. The father of liver transplantation, Thomas Starzl, consider these works as "among the most illuminating in all medical literature."
- In *digestive oncology* - promoting the concept of "translational research" based on a total of 1,500 oncology surgeries annually performed at "Dan Setlacec" Center of General Surgery and Liver Transplantation.
- Basics of a research infrastructure capable of identifying changes in genomic and proteomic of digestive cancers. In 2002, it was established biobanks, then genomics and proteomics laboratory and the laboratory of cellular therapies. In 2013 was started the construction of CEMT (Centre of Excellence in Translational Medicine) in Fundeni, with European funds (European Fund of Regional Development POS-CCE).
- The entire research activity of the center headed by Professor Irinel Popescu is presented in scientometric terms, in the article "Cercetarea Translationala: O evaluare scientometrica a Centrului de Chirurgie si Transplant Hepatic Fundeni" published in the journal *Politica Stiintei si Scientometriei*, vol. 2, no .3, in September. 2013 pp. 197-208.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

National and international scientific societies:

- Romanian Society of Surgery - president 2006-2008
- Romtransplant (Romanian Association of Transplantation: President 1998- present)
- Romanian Society of Endoscopic Surgery and other surgical techniques (ARCE): President 2002-2006
- President of the Romanian Association of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery and Liver Transplantation (2006 - 2017).
- Member of Executive Committee "International Association of Surgeons and Gastroenterologists" (IASG), from 2002
- Fellow of American College of Surgeons, (FACS) (2005)
- European Surgical Association-member (2018-2019 president)
- European Board of Surgery - Transplant subspecialty (2009) and Hepato-Bilio-Pancreatic surgery (2013)
- European Society of Organ Transplantation-member
- Vice-president - Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) (May 2014-April 2017)

Honors and Prizes

- Member of Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences (since 1999) – President (since 2011)

- Corresponding member of the Romanian Academy (2013)
- Member of Romanian Academy of Scientists (AOSR)- President of the Medical Section
- Honorary member of Academy of Science in Moldova (2007)
- Membre correspondant étranger- Académie Nationale de Médecine France (2013)
- Membre Associe étranger -Académie Nationale de Chirurgie (2003)

"Doctor Honoris Causa"

- "Ovidius" University, Constanta, Romania
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy Craiova, Romania (2006)
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Hațieganu", Cluj, Romania (2012)
- University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu" Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Visiting Professor (selection)

- Karolinska University in Stockholm (2010)

Keynote speaker (selection)

- British Journal of Surgery Lecture: Borel-Staehelin-Lecture : How to increase the number of donors in a liver transplant program) at University of Zurich (Nov.2014)
- Metastatic CRC – what about the primary?- European Congress of Coloproctology (Vienna, 2012)

Editorial Activities

- Editor-in-chief (2011-2012), Senior Honorary Editor (2013) "*Hepatogastroenterology*"
- Vice Editor-in- Chief-"Surgery, Gastroenterology and Oncology" (2017-present)
- Editor-in-Chief,"*Chirurgia*"(*The Romanian Journal of Surgery*) (2004-2013)
- Editor-in-Chief,"*Annals of Fundeni Hospital*"(1996-2014)
- Editor-in-Chief,"*Journal of Translational Medicine and Research*"(2014-2016)
- Associate Editor, "*Langenbeck's Archives of Surgery*" (present)
- Member of the Editorial Board, "*Journal of Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease*"
- Member of the Editorial Board of "*Timisoara Medical Journal*" (2004)
- Co-Editor-in-Chief,"*Archives de l'Union Medicale Balkanique*" ("Archives of the Balkan Medical Union") (1997-present)
- Member of the Editorial Board , "*Journal of Telemedicine and E-Health*"
- Member of the Editorial Board , "*The Open Transplantation Journal*"
- Member of the Editorial Board , "*Bulgarian Journal of Visceral Surgery*" (2004)

National and international scientific cooperation

- European Congress of Coloproctology: Metastatic CRC – what about the primary? - (Vienna, 2012)
- British Journal of Surgery Lecture: Borel-Staehelin-Lecture: **How to increase the number of donors in a liver transplant program** - University of Zurich 2014
- **Grand Rounds AKH** - "The surgical treatment of the metastatic colo-rectal cancer" (Vienna 2015, <http://www.ccc.ac.at/04112015-irinel-popescu/>)
- The 11th International Minimal Invasive Surgery Symposium and 7th CME Course of

IASGO, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Korea June 30 - July 1, 2017.
The robotic approach in rectal cancer: does it offer a better quality of life?"

- 1ST Congress of The Hungarian Surgical Society Surgical Oncology Sections - 23-25 March 2017, Seghedin, Ungaria.
- 10th EFR – European Federation for coloRectal Cancer Congress, April 20 - 22, 2017 at the Medical University of Vienna-” *Robotic surgery for rectal cancer: A single center experience*
- “Central pancreatectomy” (Feb. 2015) at Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf

Organisational / managerial skills

Research projects

Principal investigator in over 20 clinical studies and coordinator of over 30 research projects, among which CEMT (Center of excellence in translational medicine) project, budget: approx. 10 million euros (European funding)

President of two IASGO (International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists) World Congresses held in Bucharest in 2007 and 2013.

Organizer of Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) Spring Conference, Bucharest 2014 hosted by the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences.

Doctoral and postdoctoral education :

- 20 doctoral thesis completed
- *Coordinator* for Training Programs (doctoral, post-doctoral) in the "George Emil Palade" Platform for Interdisciplinary Training and Research in Translational Medicine
- Trainer in postdoctoral fellowships projects:

"Supporting postdoctoral research for reconstructive surgery transplantation (Postdoc-Transplant) coordinated by Carol Davila University of medicine" "Molecular biotechnology for medical applications" coordinated by Institute of Biochemistry - Romanian Academy

Projects:

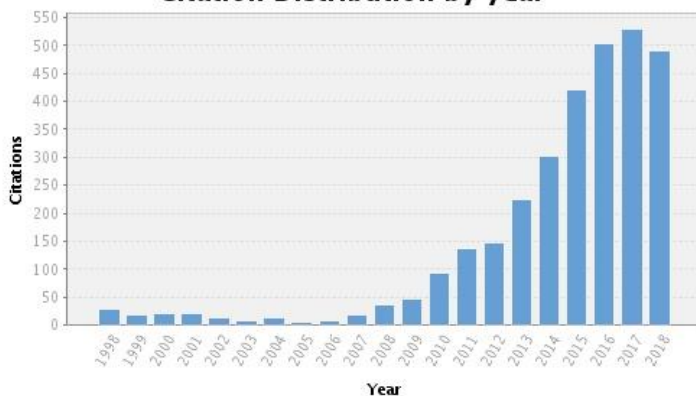
Project Title	Objective
Project HEPMARK, 4SEE/30.06.2014 ; Title "Hepatocellular carcinoma stratification based on noninvasive markers" ; Project funded under the "Research in Priority Areas" Program, Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA)	The major goal of the project "Hepatocellular carcinoma stratification based on noninvasive markers" (HEPMARK) in accordance with the EEA Research Programme objectives is to stimulate multidisciplinary research by creating and supporting a network for translational science that brings together scientists from Romania, Norway and France. HEPMARK proposes a concept of research that would identify using expression miRNAs expression, a high-risk group of patients with liver cancer who may develop intrahepatic recurrence/ distant metastasis.
Title project "Autologous cell replacement therapy for diabetic patients by liver cells transdifferentiation" (Dia-cure,) POC 2015: P_37_794, funded from Competitiveness Operational Programme 2014-2020 Priority Axis 1 – Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Rd&I) To Support Economic Competitiveness and Business	The project relates to the national priority area – HEALTH, having as major objective to establish a core of excellence in applying the process of transdifferentiation for autologous cell therapy of diabetes mellitus, one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in Romania and worldwide. The strategic objectives of the project are: 1) To create a nationally and internationally recognized Center of excellence, to enhance the RD capacity and Romanian participation in diabetes research area at

<p>Development, Action 1.1.4. Attracting high-level personnel from abroad in order to enhance the RD capacity POC-A. 1- A.1.1.4-E-2015.</p>	<p>European level 2) Integration of our Romanian groups, coordinated by a high-level international scientist, into a strong network with proficiency in translational research in the field of diabetes research 3) To provide a stimulating environment for the training of research and clinical trainees, including medical students, doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, residents and fellows from all healthcare professions. 4) To develop tools and technologies and use transdifferentiated liver cells engineered to produce and secrete insulin</p>
<p>Project no. 951, SMIS-CSNR code 14056, "CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE". Fundeni Clinical Institute; Financing: EFRD, by POS CCE (2012-2015)</p>	<p>"The project falls within the category of large projects within the existing public research institutions which expand their field of activity and at the same time open new research directions in two of the priority areas included in the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2007-2013: Health and Biotechnology.</p>
<p>"Developing Transplant Competencies"-DCT ; beneficiary- Academy of Health Sciences; Funding : Priority Axis 3 "Increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises", Key Area of Intervention 3.2 "Training and support for enterprises and employees to promote adaptability" Project duration: 12 months (January - December 2015).</p>	<p>Specific objectives: OS1. Training of a minimum of 921 doctors and 1420 nurses performing specialty areas (organ transplantation, transplantation immunology, cellular therapies) and the use of modern innovative training tools (e-learning technologies) in order to improve medical knowledge; OS2. Promoting the benefits of professional training among 1,000 physicians and 2000 nurses through information campaigns and awareness of the importance of organ, tissue and cell transplantation; OS3. Promoting the importance of the act of donation among the population through information and awareness campaigns organized at national level; OS4. Formation of a national pilot center for simulation in advanced organ and cell transplantation technologies (advanced surgical technologies, hepatic failure, interventional radiology). Results: Training of 921 physicians and 1518 nurses in highly specialized areas (organ transplantation, transplantation immunology, cellular therapies) and the use of modern innovative training tools (e-learning technologies) to improve the knowledge medical.</p>
<p>Specialization for performance, efficiency and response in organ transplantation - S.P.E.R. POSDRU / 81 / 3.2 / S / 59616 SPER is a project co-financed by the European Social Fund through the "Sectoral Operational Program for Human Resources Development 2007-2013"</p>	<p>Objective: Opening new perspectives in the field of organ transplantation.</p>

Period	Project title
10.05.1999-31.12.2002 ORIZONT 2000 Project – ANSTI	Molecular Biology of Transplantation: research of the action mechanism of immunosuppressive drugs
10.05.1999-31.12.2002 ORIZONT 2000 Project – ANSTI Medical Science Academy	Study of malignant characters in different liver tumors
10.05.1999-31.12.2003 C.N.C.S.I.S.	Surgical Techniques and Methods of Suppressing the Immune System in Patients with Hepatic Transplant
26.08.2002-01.06	Center of Excellence for Space Applications in Medicine and increasing the quality of life
1.10.2001-1.07.2004	Demonstrative pilot study of telemedicine for diagnosis, clinical and educational applications
10.10.2005- 01.04.2008 CEEEX - Module I-56/2005	Biomarkers and genic expression profile study correlated with clinico-pathological parameters in pancreatic cancer Acronym GENOPACT

10.10.2005- 01.04.2008 CEEEX - Module I-56/2005	Biomolecular studies for prognostic factors in gastrointestinal stromal tumors, Acronym: BISTRO
10.09.2006- 15.09.2008 CEEEX - Module I-62/2006	Genic profiles induced by transcriptional suppression of Ets-1 in pancreatic cancer (PACAGENTER)
10.09.2006- 15.09.2008 CEEEX - Module I-63/2006	Pulmonary preservation with perfluorocarbon in liver transplantation. Acronym: KYOX
10.09.2006- 15.09.2008 CEEEX - Module III-211/2006	Promoting Romanian participation in FP7 European projects in the field of Diabetes Immunogenetics and Pancreatic Beta Regenerative Medicine
10.09.2006- 15.09.2008 CEEEX - Module I-64/2006	Caveolin expression 1, 2 and 3 in pancreatic cancers; Molecular targets in diagnosis and treatment; Acronym: CAVEEX
10.09.2006- 15.09.2008 CEEEX - Module I-65/2006	The therapeutic potential of hematopoietic stem cells in hepatic diseases; Acronym: LIVERSTEM
Proiect CNCSIS type A – 799/2006	Immunohistochemical markers for diagnosis and prognosis in primitive and secondary liver tumors; Acronym: IHHP
Role of S100A4 and MAP4K4 in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression” PNII-PT-PCCA 90/2012 - The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development & Innovation Funding, Romania (UEFISCDI)	The project aims in setting-up a partnership in a priority research field – cancer genomics – to identify new molecular mechanisms involved in PDAC progression and design new therapeutic approaches targeting these pathways.

- the **national and international projects** was successfully finished with results published in prestigious journals such as: Nature Genetics, Hepatogastroenterology, Cancer Gene Therapy, Hepatology, Nature Medicine, Cell. The paper “Combined Gene Expression Analysis of Whole-Tissue and Microdissected Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma identifies Genes Specifically Overexpressed in Tumor Epithelia”. Hepatogastroenterology. 2008; 55(88): 2016-27 was cited in journals with high IF as: **Nature Medicine (2011)** - IF: 22.864; **Nature (2013)** - IF: 38,597; **Cell (2012)** – **(2016)** - IF:31,957 One of the main interest of Prof. Popescu is research in the field of cholangiocarcinoma and bile duct carcinoma as reflected by 2 published in Nature Genetics. (**Nat Genet. 2013; 45(12):1474-8. and Nat. Gen. 1470-3.**) He was part of the team of scientists from the National Cancer Centre Singapore, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Singapore, Fundeni Clinical Institute and Koen Kaen University (Thailand) that have made a seminal breakthrough in understanding the molecular basis of bile duct cancer or cholangiocarcinoma. His international visibility in the field of poposal is demonstrated by the scientometric data: Publications **232** in ISI Web of Science Core Collection; **h-index 29**.
- Researcher ID: <http://www.researcherid.com/rid/B-3048-2008>; Sum of the time cited is **2812** (ISI Web of Science Core Collection);

Citation Distribution by year


Total Articles in Publication
List: **232**

Articles With Citation Data:
174

Sum of the Times Cited: **3145**

Average Citations per Article:
18.07

h-index: **29**

SELECTED PAPERS - Web of Science Core Collection

Article title	Times Cited	Factor impact	Year
Domino Liver Transplantation: How Far Can We Push the Paradigm? Popescu I, Dima SO. Liver Transpl. 2012 Jan;18(1):22-8. doi: 10.1002/lt.22443.	32	3.944	2012
Total mesopancreas excision in pancreatic head adenocarcinoma: The same impact as total mesorectal excision in rectal carcinoma? Comment on article surgical technique and results of total mesopancreas excision in pancreatic tumours by Adham M and Singhirunnusom J, Dumitrascu T, Popescu I . Eur J Surg Oncol. 2012 Aug;38(8):725; author reply 726. doi: 10.1016/j.ejso.2012.04.001,	8	2.708	2012
Can hepatic resection provide a long-term cure for patients with intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma? Spolverato G, Vitale A, Cucchetti A, Popescu I, Marques HP, Aldrighetti L, Gamblin TC, Maitzel SK, Sandroussi C, Bauer TW, Shen F, Poultides GA, Marsh JW, Pawlik TM. Cancer. 2015;121(22):3998-4006	32	5.068	2015
Pseudogene INTS6P1 regulates its cognate gene INTS6 through competitive binding of miR-17-5p in hepatocellular carcinoma. Peng H, Ishida M, Li L, Saito A, Kamiya A, Hamilton JP, Fu R, Olaru AV, An F, Popescu I, Iacob R, Dima S, Alexandrescu ST, Grigorie R, Nastase A, Berindan-Neagoe I, Tomuleasa C, Graur F, Zaharia F, Torbenson MS, Mezey E, Lu M, Selaru FM. Oncotarget. 2015 Mar 20; 6(8):5666-77	29	6.627	2015
Management of Biliary Cystic Tumors: A Multi-institutional Analysis of a Rare Liver Tumor. Amaoutakis DJ, Kim Y, Pulitano C, Zaydfudim V, Squires MH, Kooby D, Groeschl R, Alexandrescu S, Bauer TW, Bloomston M, Soares K, Marques H, Gamblin TC, Popescu I, Adams R, Nagorney D, Barroso E, Maitzel SK, Crawford M, Sandroussi C, Marsh W, Pawlik TM. Ann Surg . 2015 Feb; 261(2):361-367	11	7.188	2015
MicroRNA down-regulated in human cholangiocarcinoma control cell cycle through multiple targets involved in the G1/S checkpoint. Olaru AV, Ghiaur G, Yamanaka S, Luvsanjav D, An F, Popescu I, Alexandrescu S, Allen S, Pawlik TM, Torbenson M, Georgiades C, Roberts LR, Gores GJ, Ferguson-Smith A, Almeida MI, Calin GA, Mezey E, Selaru FM. Hepatology . 2011 Dec;54(6):2089-98	63	11.665	2011
Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: an international multi-institutional analysis of prognostic factors and lymph node assessment. de Jong MC, Nathan H, Sotiropoulos GC, Paul A, Alexandrescu S, Marques H, Pulitano C, Barroso E, Clary BM, Aldrighetti L, Ferrone CR, Zhu AX, Bauer TW, Walters DM, Gamblin TC, Nguyen KT, Turley R, Popescu I, Hubert C, Meyer S, Schulick RD, Choti MA, Gigot JF, Mentha G, Pawlik TM. J Clin Oncol . 2011 Aug 10;29(23):3140-5. Epub 2011 Jul 5.	233	18.97	2011

<p>A randomized, double-blind study of the effects of omega-3 fatty acids (Omegaven) on outcome after major liver resection. Linecker M, Limani P, Botea F, Popescu I, Alikhanov R, Efanov M, Kim P, Khatkov I, Raptis DA, Tschuor C, Beck-Schimmer B, Bonvini J, Wirsching A, Kron P, Slankamenac K, Humar B, Graf R, Petrowsky H, Clavien PA. <i>BMC Gastroenterol.</i> 2015;15:102</p>	6	2.37	2015
<p>Exome sequencing identifies distinct mutational patterns in liver fluke-related and non-infection-related bile duct cancers. Chan-On W, Nairismägi ML, Ong CK, Lim WK, Dima S, Pairojkul C, Lim KH, McPherson JR, Cutcutache I, Heng HL, Ooi L, Chung A, Chow P, Cheow PC, Lee SY, Choo SP, Tan IB, Duda D, Nastase A, Myint SS, Wong BH, Gan A, Rajasegaran V, Ng CC, Nagarajan S, Jusakul A, Zhang S, Vohra P, Yu W, Huang D, Sithithawom P, Yongvanit P, Wongkham S, Khuntikeo N, Bhudhisawasdi V, Popescu I, Rozen SG, Tan P, Teh BT. Nat Genet. 2013 Dec; 45(12):1474-8.</p>	166	35.209	2013
<p>Exome sequencing identifies frequent inactivating mutations in BAP1, ARID1A and PBRM1 in intrahepatic cholangiocarc. Jiao, Y., T.M. Pawlik, R.A. Anders, Selaru FM, M.M. Streppel, D.J. Lucas, N. Niknafs, V.B. Guthrie, A. Maitra, P. Argani, G.J. Offerhaus, J.C. Roa, L.R. Roberts, G.J. Gores, I. Popescu, Alexandrescu ST, Dima S, Fassan M, Simbolo M, Mafficini A, Capelli P, Lawlor RT, Ruzzenente A, Guglielmi A, Tortora G, de Braud F, Scarpa A, Jamagin W, Klimstra D, Karchin R, Velculescu VE, Hruban RH, Vogelstein B, Kinzler KW, Papadopoulos N, Wood LD. Nat Genet, 2013 Dec, 45(12):1470-3.</p>	245	36.5	2013