

# Natalia Gheorghiu—Pioneer of Pediatric Surgery in Moldova

Eugene Joseph Kucharz, MD, PhD; Marc A. Shampo, PhD; and Robert A. Kyle, MD

**N**atalia Gheorghiu was born on November 29, 1914, in Bender (Tighina), Moldova. In 1940, she graduated from the Medical Faculty of Bucharest University. Shortly after graduation she moved to Chisinău (the capital of Moldova), where she worked in pediatric surgery. In 1957, the first ward of pediatric surgery was founded within the hospital of the Moldovan Republic of the Soviet Union. Later, thanks to her efforts, the Pediatric Surgical Center was opened in Chisinău. The center now is named after professor Gheorghiu.

Gheorghiu received the habilitation (associate professor) position at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Chisinău and then became a professor. She was a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and authored

more than 250 original papers. Her research focused on many fields including surgical methods, dermatoplasty, and application of imaging techniques in pediatric surgery. She was a member of the International Society of Surgery, president of the Moldovan Surgical Society, and honorary member of several foreign scientific societies. Gheorghiu received many medals and awards.

Natalia Gheorghiu never married, although she adopted a son, Basil Gheorghiu. She died on April 2, 2001, at the age of 86 years.

One of the streets of Chisinău was named “Gheorghiu Street,” and a memorial plate was placed on the house where she lived for several years. The Republic of Moldova honored Professor Natalia Gheorghiu by issuing a stamp (Scott No. 465) in 2004.

From the Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland (E.J.K.) and Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN (M.A.S., R.A.K.).

