

## Pavel Pulbere - promoter of Biology teaching in the Republic of Moldova

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**Abstract.** The paper is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the death of Professor Pavel Ion Pulbere, PhD in Biological Sciences, Tiraspol State University.

**Keywords:** biographical files, didactic and scientific activity, managerial activity.

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## Pavel Pulbere - promotor al didacticii Biologiei în Republica Moldova

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**Rezumat.** Lucrarea este consacrată celei de-a 25-a aniversări de la trecerea în neființă a profesorului Pavel Ion Pulbere, doctor în științe biologice, Universitatea de Stat din Tiraspol.

**Cuvinte cheie:** file biografice, activitatea didactico-științifică, activitate managerială.

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**Portrait of Professor Pavel Pulbere.** A combination of physical and intellectual stature, gentle, penetrating gaze, upright social posture, with a prosocial behaviour, respectful towards people, with a great work capacity, huge creative potential, profound knowledge in his speciality work field and an exceptional gift of transmitting it - **this is the portrait of Professor Pavel Pulbere.**

**Figure 1. Pulbere Pavel Ion,** PhD in biological sciences, associate professor (1935-1997)



### 1. BIOGRAPHICAL FILES

Pulbere Pavel Ion was born on August 2, 1935 in Gaspar village, Edinet district in a peasant family. In 1953 he graduated from the secondary school in Parcova village, then he studied at the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry of the Pedagogical Institute in Balti for one year. In 1954-1957 he continued his studies in the same field at the Pedagogical Institute in Tiraspol and graduated with honours as *a school teacher of Biology and Chemistry*.

## PAVEL PULBERE - PROMOTER OF BIOLOGY TEACHING IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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In 1957 he began his pedagogical activity at the middle school in Telenesti. In August 1958 he was elected secretary of the district committee of Telenesti county, a position he held for a year.

In 1959 he moved to the State Pedagogical Institute in Tiraspol as assistant to the Department of Zoology. In 1962 he was elected senior lecturer of the same department and Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Geographical Sciences, a position he held until October 1964 (1,4).

In parallel to his teaching activity he was also interested in research. In 1960 he published his first scientific work devoted to the study of the influence of cholinesterase on experimental atherosclerosis, and in 1962 he initiated a brilliant series of experimental investigations of the influence of central nervous system on the metabolism of cholesterol. On the basis of this research he developed a new method of modelling experimental atherosclerosis and revealed the role of biologically active substances of natural origin in the regulation of cholesterol metabolism.

From September 1, 1966 Pavel Pulbere continued his research at the Institute of Medicine in Leningrad (Russia, now Saint Petersburg) for doctor's training and the obtained scientific results were the basis for his PhD thesis in Biology in 1967 on "Influence of the functional state of the central nervous system on the cholesterol metabolism and experimental atherosclerosis" (5).

Returning to the faculty, in 1968 he was appointed as interim university lecturer in the Department of Human and Animal Physiology, and in 1971 the Higher Certification Commission awarded him the scientific and teaching title of associate professor. For many years Mr. Pulbere was a member and president of the Republican School Olympic Committee in Biology, he headed the Commission for awarding teacher degrees to Biology teachers in the republic. In 1970 he was awarded the badge "Eminent in public education" for outstanding achievements in the field of teaching and science and in 1981 - the badge for "Eminent achievements in activity" (4).

Due to his remarkable leadership skills he held various leading positions, such as Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry (1969-1978), Head of the Department of Human and Animal Physiology (1977-1992) and in parallel – Vice Rector for Didactic Activities (1983-1988).

Due to the national political events in 1992, together with the University staff, Mr. Pulbere fled to Chisinau. In addition to his teaching activity at the Department of Human Physiology, he held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry until 1996 when his health began to deteriorate.



**Figure 2.** Laboratory work in Human Physiology guided by Mr. Pavel Pulbere

## 2. DIDACTIC AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

During his managerial activity Pavel Pulbere has shown perseverance with himself and his subordinates, discipline, responsibility in successful accomplishment of his tasks; and has always considered being a teacher as his main mission. He made considerable efforts to organize the teaching process and scientific work, participated in the development of the concept of pedagogical training by providing teachers with methodical teaching materials and developed the experimental side of biological sciences, thus emphasized learning through exploration. The following pictures show him among students.

In the course of his scientific and pedagogical activity he published about 60 scientific and methodical papers devoted to the problem of increased excitability of the central nervous system during the development of experimental atherosclerosis in animals. Having a vast experience and being a teacher by vocation, he devoted a good part of his works to methods of teaching Biology in higher and secondary education. For his prodigious work Mr. Pulbere has been awarded many times with diplomas of mention by the Ministry of Education. In over 40 years of activity in Tiraspol State University he has contributed to the pedagogical training of more than 20.000 specialists in the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Pedagogy. Thanks to his erudition, his oratorical skills and his high standards of education, he saw in each student a unique personality and did not diminish their human aspect. He was determined to cultivate their love for books (5). The memory of the famous and distinguished pedagogue and scientist has been preserved by the creation of the laboratory in his name at the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry where students have the opportunity to carry out laboratory work and research studies in the framework of their bachelor and master theses.

### 3. THE TEACHER LIVES THROUGH HIS DISCIPLES

Being the disciples of professor P. Pulbere, today and forever we will fondly browse through the memories that link us to his personality.

Through these deeply sincere lines, we will try to set the example of Professor Pavel Pulbere to those young university students of today and tomorrow, to those who did not know him and who do not know that they are and will be for a long time to come students of Professor Pulbere. This is confirmed by the fact that Mr. Pulbere's name is recognised by his disciples, is respected by our country's teachers, his colleagues and all those who have had the privilege of knowing him.

Professor Pavel Pulbere has trained and inspired generations of teachers and scholars who keep the light burning. He was the person who was at the start of the teaching and scientific careers of many students, handing them the admission card. Further on sharing with them his rich treasure of knowledge and qualities. Which facilitated them to successfully graduate in five years and teach in schools all around the country. While other of his graduates enjoyed the opportunity to work at the Department of Human Physiology of the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry of Tiraspol State University, or in other scientific and higher national education institutions.

Being an intelligent and warm-hearted person, he interacted with his disciples not only during lessons, but also in various other situations, showing great esteem towards them and helping them to solve problems that they were facing. He was always interested in student life and did not hesitate to visit them in the dormitory, at the college, at evening events organised on different occasions. On New Year's Eve he used to come with heartfelt congratulatory messages and join the student hora. He had his own way of being, putting a lot of heart and effort into conveying his experience through his gift of informing and persuading. Every lesson was a lesson of life. His unique way of asking questions, raised an avid interest in finding out the scientific truth. This challenge led the students slowly down the path of knowledge (2).

Now, after the passing of many years of professional and human training of his disciples, after the former students have gained a great deal of life experience, they can say with certainty that there is no teacher who has not enlightened their souls. We say this because all the teachers who taught and educated us, from the first day of school to the last day of university, and even more so the last day of the doctorate, have remained in our memory forever. Memories bring us back more and more often to the times when we were with them, to their gentle faces, their calm voices, and we marvel at the grace and skill with which they took us into the world of pedagogy and biological sciences. Among

the brightest and most vivid faces that often appear is that of Pavel Pulbere, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Associate Professor, whom we, former students, have known since the first year at the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry of the State Pedagogical Institute "T.G.Shevchenko" in Tiraspol. Even then, the hearts and souls of many students felt the kindness of this great teacher. A personality who was the starting point in their professional activity, a pedagogue who enormously contributed to their professional and managerial training, and who trusted them and inspired trust along the way (3).

His strong temperament, generosity, desire to support and do good, modesty, rigour and principledness made him a spiritual magnet and role model not only for his disciples, colleagues and university students, but also for the whole local pedagogical community (2).

Today, years later we are aware that the professor burned himself out like a candle too soon, to give us knowledge, to make us understand many things that were too difficult for us at that time (3).

He honourably wore his destiny built on work and humanity, and the sweet burden of goodness that never exhausted him. At all stages of his life he showed professionalism, initiative, principledness, goodwill and allowed us to sip from the wellspring of knowledge and the multitude of qualities he possessed in order to become good specialists and enrich our patrimony of chosen feelings and life experience.

For us, his students, Professor Pavel Pulbere will remain an example of hard work, honesty and courage, a true national hero of professional sacrifice, but first of all - an epitome of a person of good faith.

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