

Tribute to Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin

Baloga Istvan

Physical Education and Sport Faculty, “Babes-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Abstract

This article brings a tribute to Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin at one year from her death.

Keywords: swimming, sports medicine, sports history, Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin, FINA, Olympic Games, Cluj University



Fig. 1 – Orosz Katalin, member of the “U” Cluj University. Club and Romanian National Team in Bucharest 1949 (Photo-personal archive).

Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin, born in Cluj, Romania, on 22 December 1934, was well known for her remarkable career in swimming and in sports medicine. She started to swim with her sister Judith Orosz coached by their father Gabor Orosz, then continued her trainings with coaches Bogdan Koloman and Bela Jordaky (*MTS Personalitati*). At the age of 13 she already achieved a Master in Sports title from the Romanian Swimming Federation. At the age of 14 she became a National Champion and established her first national record in 50 m breaststroke. In her

career as a swimmer Flora Orosz Katalin was 30 times Romanian National Champion with 27 National Records. Starting 2011 she participated in senior masters swimming competitions where she broke 17 world records and won 12 gold medals at FINA Masters World Championships. Flora Orosz Katalin was multiple National Champion also in Hungary, as she was of Hungarian nationality. In her athletic career she competed for the Romanian National Team, and for the following sports clubs: Stiinta Cluj, Progresul Cluj, Universitatea Cluj, Orca Cluj, Debreceni Szenior Úszó Klub.

Orosz Flora Katalin graduated from Cluj University of Medicine class of 1958 having been mentored and influenced in her career by the prestigious Prof. Dr. Iuliu Hatieganu. As a consultant physician, Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin worked in Romania and Germany in sports medicine and research. She participated in two Summer Olympic Games, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984 as a doctor for the Romanian Gymnastics and Rowing Team. In 1980 she obtained her Ph.D. in Medicine focusing with her thesis and many research articles on the influence of performance sports on the genital sphere and physical development in women. After almost 30 years of dedication to the Romanian sports medicine, being a founding member of the Romanian Institute of Sports Medicine and consultant physician for the swimming, diving, rowing, gymnastics, and volleyball national teams, Flora Orosz Katalin continued her career from 1987 until retirement in Germany, where she became the head of department at the Sports Medicine Institute in Frankfurt.

Received: 2023, March 21; *Accepted for publication:* 2023, April 10

Address for correspondence: Physical Education Faculty, “Babes-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Pandurilor Street, No.7, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

E-mail: istvan_baloga@yahoo.com

Corresponding author: Istvan Baloga, istvan_baloga@yahoo.com

<https://doi.org/10.26659/pm3.2023.24.2.97>



Fig. 2 – With Carmen Bunaciu, first medal in history for Romania at the World Championship, bronze medal in 200 m backstroke in Guayaquil, Ecuador, 1982 (Photo-Ion Mihăică).
 “Dr. Ecaterina Flora devotes herself to the health of swimmers. She also does it affectively. Do you remember the champion, Ecaterina Orosz?” (Translation: Callimachi D, 1980).

Her career in Masters swimming starts in 2011 after she became National Champion in Romania and in Hungary she decided to compete at the European and World Championships as well. The major events she obtained her best results in chronological order were: in 2012 in Riccione, Italy, FINA Masters World Championships, in 2014 in Montreal, Canada, FINA Masters World Championships, in 2015 in Nice, Italy European Masters Championships, in 2017 in Budapest, Hungary, FINA Masters World Championships, in 2019 in Gwangju, South Korea, FINA Masters World Championships.

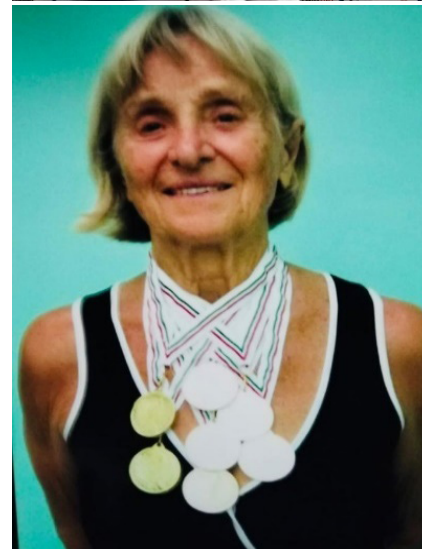


Fig. 3 – Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin at FINA Masters World Championship Montreal 2014 and after National Championships (Photo-personal archive).

Table I
 Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin, Results: Gold medals won in major individual events
 FINA World Championships and European Masters Games.

Championship/ Location	Year	Age group (years)	Event (distance/stroke) in 50m pool	Time (min: sec. Hundredth of second)	World Record (WR) Championship Record (CR)
FINA World Championship, Riccione, Italy (1)	2012	75-79	50m Backstroke	46.20	–
FINA World Championship, Montreal, Canada (2)	2014	80-84	50m Backstroke 100m Backstroke	49.26 1:48.15	–
European Master Games, Nice, France (3)	2015	80-84	50m Backstroke 100m Backstroke 200m Backstroke	49.12 1:47.28 3:46.61	– – –
FINA World Championship, Budapest, Hungary (4)	2017	80-84	50m Backstroke 100m Backstroke 200m Individual Medley	47.65 1:43.57 3:53.63	– CR WR-CR
FINA World Championship, Gwangju, South Korea (5)	2019	85-89	50m Backstroke 100m Backstroke 200m Backstroke 50m Butterfly 200m Individual Medley	49.92 1:46.51 3:43.27 48.90 3:54.86	WR-CR WR-CR WR-CR WR-CR WR-CR



Fig. 4 – Statue of Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin at “Iuliu Hațieganu” Sports Parc in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (Photo-personal archive).

The Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca honored Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin for her athletic and professional career with a statue in the “Iuliu Hațieganu” Sports Park (Fig. 4). The statue is not far from the swimming pool (today a covered indoor pool named “Complexul de Natatie Universitas”) where she trained and competed as a young swimmer. We need this statue to remember who Dr. Flora

Orosz Katalin was, and especially for the new generations of children and students who practice sports and study in this park to have it as a model for her outstanding achievements. We hope that this memorial article will also raise interest in remarkable student athletes to follow with gratitude and honor the path of Dr. Flora Orosz Katalin.

References

- Alexe N. Costandache, V. Enciclopedia Educatiei Fizice si Sportului din Romania. MTS, Ed. Maiastra, Targu Jiu, Vol II, 2015, 264.
- Callimachi D. Sportivii Romani aspiranti la podiumul olimpic. Sport. Rev Ilustr Lunara a CNEFS București, Ian, 1980.

Websites

- (1) FINA Masters Results Riccione, Italy 2012 https://resources.fina.org/fina/document/2021/03/24/f6dc3908-e9f0-4fa1-a5e75da918f8a8d8/ma_2012_sw_W.pdf
- (2) FINA Masters Results Montreal, Canada 2014 https://resources.fina.org/fina/document/2021/03/05/f91c0b76-dadf-466e-9b9c-f1f212cc9c6a/ma_2014_sw_W_3_0.pdf
- (3) European Masters Games Nice, France 2015 <https://d3tfdru9q5sbcz.cloudfront.net/2020/09/Natation.pdf>
- (4) FINA Masters Results Budapest, Hungary 2017 https://resources.fina.org/fina/document/2021/11/22/56260b50-72ee-468d-924c-28d8fcfc6b0f/ma_2017_sw_W.pdf
- (5) FINA Masters Results Gwangju, South Korea 2019 https://resources.fina.org/fina/document/2022/02/18/25b64632-2bb9-4d69-b805-40baa1e0395b/ma_2019_sw_W.pdf