

Professor Euzebiusz Krykowski (3 January 1927–21 March 2024)

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Professor Euzebiusz Krykowski

We recently bade farewell to Professor Euzebiusz Krykowski, a specialist in Hematology and a wonderful doctor, who has died at the age of 97.

Professor Krykowski was born in Brzeziny in 1927. He spent his childhood in the Vilnius region, which remained close to his heart for the rest of his life. He returned to his childhood home many times, initially in his memories, and in later years on sentimental journeys.

Euzebiusz Krykowski graduated from high school in Vilnius and participated in secret classes. As a young boy during the war, he fought in the Home Army (under the nickname 'Lech'), and took part in the battle for Vilnius in 1944. He was later deported across the USSR, to Kaluga in distant Siberia, where he spent almost two years in a Soviet forced labour camp. He returned to Poland in January 1946, where he passed his high school leaving examination, and began his studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the newly-established Medical Academy of Lodz. He obtained his medical diploma in 1952.

After graduating, Euzebiusz began his professional career as an Assistant at the 2nd Department of Internal Diseases, S. Sterling Memorial Hospital, under Prof. Jerzy Jakubowski. From 1958 to 1959, he took part in a scholarship at the Rockefeller Foundation, at Boston University in the USA, where he worked under the supervision of Prof. William Dameshek, the founder of modern Hematology; this experience would have a considerable influence on Prof. Krykowski's professional life. After returning to Poland, he began to expand his interest in Hematology. Later, he completed short research posts in several other American centres, as well as in London, Paris, Innsbruck and Lyon. In 1964, he was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences by the Council of the Faculty of Medicine; in 1981 he became a Habilitated Doctor, and in 1991, he obtained the title of Professor.

In 1973, together with Prof. Aleksandra Mazurowa, Professor Krykowski jointly took over the running of the 2nd Department of Internal Diseases in the newly-established M. Copernicus Memorial University Hospital in Lodz. In this hospital, between 1984 and 1995, he served as Head of the 2nd Department and Head of the Department of Internal Medicine.

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Prof. Krykowski was the 'father' of Hematology in Lodz, being the architect of its current organisation and programme shape. In 1995, he created the Hematology Clinic of the Medical University of Lodz, which he headed until his retirement in 1997. As he himself emphasised many times, he was a student of three Professors: Jerzy Jakubowski, Włodzimierz Musiał senior, and William Dameshek.

Professor Euzebiusz Krykowski was a co-founder of the Polish Society of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, a member of the Polish Medical Society and of the Society of Polish Internists, the Clinical Hematology Committee, the Pathophysiology Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Lodz Scientific Society. He served as the voivodship consultant in the field of Internal Medicine. He was the supervisor of several doctoral theses and a reviewer of many other doctoral theses and scientific articles. Above all, he was an outstanding scientist and an excellent practitioner and teacher, and one who served as a role model for subsequent generations of doctors. He

was devoted to his patients, and dedicated his considerable clinical intuition to their care.

Many indeed owe their return to health to him.

Even after retiring, Professor Krykowski remained professionally active and continued to work in the Hematology Clinic for many years. He maintained an interest in the affairs of the clinic and enjoyed keeping touch with the successes of his students and former colleagues, with whom he remained on friendly terms until the end of his life.

Euzebiusz Krykowski was an undisputed authority in the field of Internal Medicine and a pioneer in the development of Hematology in Poland. For his outstanding achievements in research and teaching work, and in the development of healthcare, he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Professor Euzebiusz Krykowski was buried in Lodz at the Doły Municipal Cemetery, but he will remain in our hearts and memories for ever.