

## In memoriam Emil Płowiecki

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Allow me to recall in these lines a man whose passing I have deeply lamented, a man with an impeccable sense of duty, and whose friendship I have cultivated with immense pleasure. I had the privilege of visiting him on multiple occasions, wherein I always observed him taking care of the smallest details regarding the development of his products, paying attention to his company and the people who, in one way or another, worked in or collaborated with it. He was the first to arrive and the last to leave the factory. He was an otherwise discreet man, generously open to innovation, who succeeded, in many senses, in becoming a leader in the field of biomedical engineering. In summary, one of the kindest people I have ever met, whose friendship I have always deeply appreciated: Mr. Emil Płowiecki (1951–2020).

Mr. Emil Płowiecki, Founder and President of Balton Sp., was the recipient of many prestigious awards in the field of business and innovation. The Polish Government bestowed on him the Golden Cross of Merit for achievements in promoting Polish technical and technological development. He was also awarded the Golden Laurel in the field of Medicine and Biomedical Engineering.

While visiting Balton facilities in Warsaw I can recall a feeling of harmony, pervading every corner, like a calm sea of order and efficiency. When he received guests in his office, he made them feel part of the company, which he conceived as a great family. I vividly remember how he offered his guests honey from a small pot that he kept on his table to sweeten the coffee, instead of sugar, and how he took as much time as needed to listen to his guests' proposals or to explain his new designs and products, while drinking his coffee.

He created a company with its own research and development facilities which encompassed microbiological, chemical and mechanical laboratories



Mr. Emil Płowiecki and Dr. Luis Íñigo in Balton in 2016.

that implement the latest designs and advances. He always knew how to attract and encourage the collaboration of scientists and end users.

Herein is a brief look back on some of Mr. Emil Płowiecki's milestones here. After founding Balton in 1980, he commenced his activity producing stainless steel guide wires for introducers. Soon after, he expanded to epidural catheters, needles for hemodialysis and, in 1987, catheters for angiography. He continued to incorporate numerous devices into the manufacturing process to make Balton an innovative design and medical production company. In 2005, Balton created the World's first paclitaxel eluting stent coated with a biodegradable polymer and, in 2010, introduced the coronary bifurcation stent system. Today,

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Balton produces medical equipment for cardiology, radiology, anesthesiology, surgery, dialysis, urology and gynecology. The company cooperates with many scientific centers and clinics in Poland and Europe as well as with companies from France, the United States, Germany, Russia and Japan.

Mr. Emil Płowiecki achieved great success worldwide and his products continue to save human lives in hospitals and clinics around the world. Balton company uses the latest materials,

technology, production and control equipment which are used in the most sophisticated hi-tech plants in the world.

Apart from being active in the medical industry, he was also involved in charitable activities and promoted young artists and athletes.

Emil Płowiecki, a noble, kind man with a big heart, a wonderful, invaluable friend, accept these words of remembrance from the heart, as a testament in your memory, and rest in peace.

**Conflict of interest:** None declared