

Professor Andrzej Skawina (1934–2002)

Professor Andrzej Skawina was born on December 18th, 1934 in Przeworsk. After completing his primary and secondary schooling there, he studied medicine at the Academy of Medicine in Kraków and qualified as a Doctor in 1959. He obtained his Doctoral Degree in Medical Sciences in 1978 and qualified as Assistant Professor in regular anatomy in 1992. He was nominated Assistant Professor in 2000.



While still in his third year of medical studies, he began working at the Institute of Anatomy and worked his way through all the levels of an academic career, first as a demonstrator, next as a deputy assistant and, after qualifying as a doctor, as an assistant. He broke off his work in the Department of Anatomy in autumn 1959 when he was called up into the army. He worked in the Medical Section, of the Army Unit in Braniewo and later in the local hospital in Przeworsk on the Internal Medicine Ward.

In 1962 he returned to Kraków to the Department of Anatomy to be taken onto the permanent staff and began his scientific career as senior assistant, lecturer, and tutor. In 1978, Janina Sokołowska-Pituchowa conferred a doctoral degree on him, based on a thesis entitled: *Badania nad unaczynieniem kości długich kończyny dolnej płodów ludzkich*. Continuing his studies in the angiology of foetal material, Professor Skawina carried out a number of valuable pieces of research, which allowed him to qualify as Assistant-Professor of Regular Anatomy, based on the thesis *Angiomorfologia nasady i przynasady bliższej kości udowej człowieka w rozwoju prenatalnym. Badania w mikroskopie świetlnym i skaningowym mikroskopie elektronowym*.

From 1992 Skawina held the Chair of Anatomy in Kraków. He was particularly interested in the problems of foetal angiology, and also worked on oste-

ology, myology and the ossification of extra-skeletal tissues. Professor Skawina produced more than a hundred and twenty publications, including original papers, case studies, methodological and conference reports. Forty-three of these were published in "Folia Morphologica".

While working in the Department between 1962 and 1969, he also worked voluntarily in the II Clinic of Internal Medicine in Kraków, where he obtained the first stage of specialisation, followed, in 1969, by the second stage of Specialisation in Internal Medicine. After gaining these specialist qualifications, he worked as a specialist in internal medicine in the ambulance service in Kraków until 1998.

Professor Skawina's scientific interests were usually concentrated on the research issues in which the Department was involved. This tradition included the subject of angiology, initiated by Teichmann and established by Sokołowska-Pituchowa, a tradition which is still maintained, as evidenced by the quantity of Skawina's research on the vascular system. His first publications, which appeared in 1966, were concerned with angiological problems. Altogether twenty-four collective works appeared dealing with the blood vessel system

Professor Skawina and his scientific staff studied together the skeletal system as well as the vascularisation of particular sections of the gastro-intestinal system, the head, the spinal cord, certain glands and tumours. Some of their work dealt with the venous vessels and venous dural sinuses. Professor Skawina studied the variability of the veins and the structure of their walls, especially the structure of the portal and umbilical veins and ductus Aranti. His account of the injection methods worked out in the Institute was especially valuable, as was the con-

struction of the cephalostat, which facilitated the study of foetuses.

Professor Andrzej Skawina was a respected lecturer, and teacher of practical classes, having acquired the pedagogical skills needed from the outset of his work in the Department.

In 2002 he entered into an agreement with the Editorial Board of the Jagiellonian University for the drawing up of a topographical manual, to be published in parts. Five parts have been published to date.

Professor Skawina considered it his responsibility to prepare young assistants to uphold high standards in teaching and in relations with students, while at the same time introducing them to the world of scientific research, which he did by co-opting them into participation in his own studies. The maintenance of teaching standards and the simultaneous continuation of scientific research was seen as a necessary condition for continuing the tradition of the oldest chair and the one which first introduces stu-

dents into the life of the University Professor Skawina conferred degrees on three occasions.

Apart from performing the particular supervisory duties of a scientific and pedagogical nature which fell to the chair he held, Professor Skawina looked after the building of the Theatrum Anatomicum. He had several repairs carried out, mainly to the monumental lecture room and the museum. He stocked the department with modern educational equipment and the most up-to-date technical achievements.

For many years Professor Skawina served as a member of the Polish Anatomical Society and as Chairman of the Kraków Branch of this association. He was awarded the Rector's Prize several times and in 1981 he was awarded a Golden Cross of Merit.

Professor Andrzej Skawina fulfilled admirably the office of Head of the Chair of Anatomy until his untimely death on August 5th 2002. His efforts marked the conclusion of the first four hundred years of work of the Chair and Department of Descriptive Anatomy at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków.

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