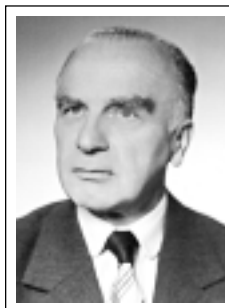


Professor Władysław Kubik (1923–2000)

Dr hab. med. Władysław Kubik, retired professor of the Medical University of Gdańsk, died on June 6, 2000. Professor Kubik had been connected with the Department of Anatomy of our University for more than half a century and remained faithful to it until the very end, taking an active part in its life.



Professor Władysław Kubik was born in February 1923 in Radomsko. He started his primary school in Chodakowo and graduated from the school in 1931 in Sochaczewo. During the war he earned his living in Sochaczewo and Warsaw. In 1945 he arrived in Gdańsk, where he graduated from the Nature High School a year later. In 1946 he started his studies at the Medical Faculty of the Medical University of Gdańsk.

In 1949, being still a student, he started his educational activity in the Department of Anatomy. After receiving his physician's diploma he was promoted to assistant and then to senior lecturer. Gradually he became a well-known figure among his co-workers and students. He had an interesting personality, knew his subject very well and had many interests. He obtained his doctor's degree (PhD) in 1961 on the basis of a thesis entitled: "The gall bladder in primates". In 1967 he received the scientific degree of docent (assistant professor) and in 1991 the title of professor of the Medical University of Gdańsk. At the same time he conducted his long-term practice in the II Surgical Department led by Professor Kazimierz Dębicki and became a specialist in surgery.

During all the time he conducted lectures and classes for students of the Medical Faculty. After the foundation of the University of Physical Education in Gdańsk he organised the Department of Anatomy there and led it for 10 years. He also held classes in the newly organised Department of Biol-

ogy of the University of Gdańsk. For many years he was also connected with the education of nurses.

From the 1970s he conducted the teaching of anatomy in the Dentistry Faculty within the confines of our Department. In 1970–1978 he was head of the Dentistry Faculty and Vice-Dean of the

Medical Faculty.

Professor Władysław Kubik was one of the best lecturers of our University. He had a marvellous gift for teaching, a wide knowledge and a great love of the subject. His lectures were always attended by large numbers of listeners and are still recalled by generations of his former students. He considered teaching to be the most important duty of each academic teacher, no matter what status he had. He had a wonderful gift for presenting complicated anatomical problems in an interesting, easy way, understandable for every listener.

Professor W. Kubik was the co-creator and main organiser of the competition in anatomy for students called "Scapula aurea". This contest was very popular and soon became an event of a nation-wide rank.

He had very good contact with young people. As the wonderful leader of student summer camps from the 1970s, he is still alive in the memory both of former participants and of the inhabitants of Wdzydze Kiszewskie (Kaszuby Area), who were grateful for his medical care.

His teaching gift found its expression in his very well written textbooks. His printed series of course lectures on anatomy for students of universities of physical education should be considered as an example of logic and accuracy and a work of great value, which can also be used by medical students today. Not everybody is aware of Professor Kubik's participation in the preparation of the monumental textbook "Human

Anatomy" by Bochenek and Reicher. Professor Reicher always used to emphasise that Dr Kubik played a very important role in the writing of this multi-volume textbook. He displayed enormous precision and a wide knowledge of the subject in this arduous work.

Professor Kubik was a respected practising doctor too. He prepared clinical comments to the above-mentioned textbook, which were always connected with practical medicine. More than once he talked about his long-term work in the II Surgical Department, warmly mentioning the surgeons who created it. He gained there the reliable surgical knowledge which he used in his teaching work, explaining clinical problems to young students.

The main topic of his research, the morphology of big digestive glands — was also connected with his medical interests. His previously mentioned doctoral thesis, as well as the thesis for the degree of Dr hab., were dedicated to anatomical, topographical and clinical aspects of big digestive glands. Many trends of his interests, including disciplines of science and art, were striking in the Professor's personality. Anatomy, surgery, music, gardening, problems of social life and history were the fields in which he showed deep knowledge and which he could fascinatingly discuss

for many hours. He had a large collection of the best classical music recordings, and was able to comment on them wonderfully.

He was a noble, very compassionate man. When he met human harm and suffering he used to react very emotionally, no matter whether it could cause problems for him. He was modest and avoided publicity, despite occupying prominent positions and involving himself in public life.

He was faithful to the patriotic traditions of the National Army (Armia Krajowa) and the Warsaw Uprising, in which he took an active part — something he was always proud of. His colourful reminiscences from that period were unforgettable and had a significant meaning for that time. We will miss him as he became a link between the former post-war department, led by Professor Michał Reicher, and our present one, belonging to the new millennium.

His calm and self-control during the last weeks of his illness behavior — could serve as an example of the human — irrespective of the situation he preserved his dignity until the very end.

Professor Władysław Kubik will always remain in our hearts and memories as a noble man, a shining example of a teacher and tutor of youth.

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