

Professor Jerzy Wroński (1929–2011)

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Professor Jerzy Wroński, MD, was born on June 9, 1929, in Radom.

He studied medicine in the years 1946–1950, at the Warsaw Medical Academy. He undertook specialisation in neurosurgery under the direction of Prof. Jerzy Choróbski during the years 1951–1954.

During the years 1957–1964, as a lecturer, he co-organised the Department of Neurosurgery, later transformed into the Clinic of Neurosurgery of the Medical University of Lublin, where he worked under the direction of Assistant Professor Halina Koźniewska. In 1961, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine based on the dissertation: *Significance of the inequality of pupils after homatropine application in neurosurgery patients*.

On the initiative of Prof. Rudolf Arendt, to whom Dr. Jerzy Wroński was recommended by Prof. Jerzy Choróbski, on April the 1st, 1965, he was appointed by the Council of Medicine Faculty at the Wrocław Medical University to the position of Lecturer – Head of Neurosurgery Department at the Neurology Clinic at the Wrocław Medical University.

Professor Jerzy Wroński organised from the ground the 10-bed Neurosurgery Department operating in Wrocław from June the 1st, 1966, at the premises of Ludwik Rydygier Hospital, and next, in 1968, the 52-bed Department in the Specialist Hospital of Wrocław at Traugutta Street. In 1983, the Department was transformed into the Clinic of Neurosurgery.

He organised, in 1973, the first in Poland Neurointensive Care Department and Neuroradiological Laboratory.

The title of associate professor he obtained in 1981, based on his scientific achievements and postdoctoral dissertation: *The role of acid-base balance tests of cerebrospinal fluid and blood in prognostication and medical treatment in patients with trauma and intracranial operations*. On the 1st of August 1997, he received the nomination to the position of the Professor of medicine.



He undertook extensive training and frequent international travelling, among others to Sweden, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the USA.

Professor Jerzy Wroński actively participated in international meetings, including congresses of the European Association of Neurosurgeons (EANS), conferences of the Scandinavian Society of Neurosurgeons, British Society of Neurosurgeons, German Society of Neurosurgeons, American Association of Neurosurgeons (AANS), Euroacademia Neurotraumatologica, and World Congresses of Neurotraumatology.

Professor Jerzy Wroński was a founding member in the committee of the Polish Society of Neurosurgeons (PSNS). Many times he served as a Chair of the Lower Silesia Division of PSNS, a member and a chair of the Chief Audit Commission of PSNS, a member and a treasurer of the Board of PSNS (1987–1989), and during 1993–1995, the President of the PSNS. On his initiative, the Section of Intravascular Neurosurgery, Section of Neurotraumatology and Section of Cranial Basis Surgery were created. In 1999, he was appointed Honorary President of the PSNS.

In the period 1984–1993, on behalf of the PSNS, he had been a member of the Training Committee and a delegate to EANS. As a lecturer, he participated in EANS courses (Edinburgh 1984, Thessaloniki 1985, Porto 1986, Wrocław 1987, Amsterdam 1988, Saragossa 1991 and Jerusalem 1992). In 1987, he organised in Wrocław, for the first time in Poland, a European Course of Neurosurgery.

Professor Jerzy Wroński was an organiser of many conventions and scientific conferences with foreign participation, including three National Scientific Conferences of PSNS (Cieplice 1973, Wrocław 1983, Wrocław 1995), the European Course of Neurosurgery (Wrocław 1987), the 1st Polish-German Symposium of Neurosurgeons for the 50th anniversary of the death of Otfried Foerster (Wrocław 1991), the 1st Congress of the Union

of Polish Surgical Societies *Multiorgan Injuries* (Wrocław 1994), the 1st Polish-Czech-Slovak Symposium of Neurosurgical Societies (Polanica Zdrój 1996), the 4th Polish-German Convention of Neurosurgeons (Wrocław – Krzyżowa 1999), and the 1st Convention of the Central European Society of Neurosurgeons, CENS (Wrocław, 1999).

Professor Jerzy Wroński was a founding member of the Polish-German Commission for Cooperation of Neurosurgical Societies created in 1994.

Professor Jerzy Wroński was a corresponding member of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurochirurgie (1992), honorary member of the Czech Society of Neurosurgeons (1998) and Slovak Society of Neurosurgeons (1998), as well as Honorary President of the Polish Society of Neurosurgeons (1999).

During 1985-1991, he was a member of the Scientific Committee of the *Zentralblatt für Neurochirurgie* editorial office (Leipzig).

Professor Jerzy Wroński was a member of the Advisory Council in Euroacademy for Multidisciplinary Neurotraumatology (1994), as well as a member of the Neurotrauma Society (1995) and the New York Academy of Science (1997). From 1979, he had been a member of two Commissions of the Committee of Neurological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, PAN: the Commission of Intracranial Hypertension and Cerebral Oedema Research, and the Commission of Nervous System Injuries. After their transformation, he was appointed as a member of the Commission of Injuries and Research of Intracranial Environment Homeostasis of the Committee of Neurological Sciences of PAN.

In the Neurosurgery Clinic at the Wrocław Medical University directed by Prof. Jerzy Wroński many treatment and research methods were designed, developed and implemented in practice, including the following:

- 1) application of the method of extensive osseous-scleral decompression in severe craniocerebral injuries,
- 2) systemic alkalinisation with THAM in order to control brain and cerebrospinal fluid acidosis states,
- 3) monitoring of intracranial pressure and flow pressure in brain using sensors and computer aided recording equipment developed in Wrocław,
- 4) introduction of early (up to 72 hours) diagnostics and microsurgical treatment of intracranial aneurysms,
- 5) complex control of vasospasm in aneurysm haemorrhage by applying nimodipine, as well as hypervolaemia, haemodilution and provoked hypertension,
- 6) introduction of series Doppler transcranial tests with the TCD method into cerebral blood flow monitoring,

7) detection of vasospasm after supratentorial operations of brain tumours using TCD.

During 1980-1985, Prof. Jerzy Wroński was a coordinator of the research problems MZ 10.05 accepted with distinction: *Elaboration of methods of controlling cerebral oedema and treatment of brain tissue contusion*, and during 1986-1990, of the RP 14.05 problem: *Controlling vasospasm in treatment of ruptured intracranial aneurysms with consideration of early microsurgical operations*.

In the Neurosurgery Clinic at the Wrocław Medical University, 4 physicians received the degree of habilitated doctor (Jerzy Hołyst 1972, Jerzy Wroński 1980, Janusz Mierzwa 1999, Lesław Wojciech Zub 2000), 13 physicians the degree of doctor of medical sciences, 17 physicians the 2nd degree of specialisation in neurosurgery, 9 physicians the 1st degree in neurosurgery, and 2 physicians in neuroradiology.

Professor Jerzy Wroński was a member-correspondent of the German Society of Neurosurgery, honorary member of the Czech Society of Neurosurgeons, honorary member of the Slovak Society of Neurosurgeons, and an honorary member of the Central European Neurosurgical Society.

In the periods 1984-1987 and 1966-1990, Prof. Jerzy Wroński was the Provincial Specialist, and in the years 1991-1998 was a member of the National Specialist Inspection in neurosurgery, executing supervision over the Lower Silesia voivodeships of Wrocław, Legnica, Jelenia Góra and Wałbrzych.

On the 25th of May 1988, on the initiative of Prof. Jerzy Wroński, the Lower Silesian Foundation for Health Care Development was created, of which he was the first President, until his passing in 2011. In 2004, the Foundation was the first in Lower Silesia to receive the status of public benefit organization (*in Polish*, Organizacja Pożytku Publicznego, OPP). In terms of the obtained 1% depreciations, the Foundation is at the national leading edge and is in the top 6th position among over 8000 OPPs. After passing of Prof. Wroński, Prof. Włodzimierz Jarmundowicz was elected as the President of the Foundation. Over the 24 years of its activity, the Foundation helped hospitals and clinics, as well as individual patients, with the amount of about 65,000,000 PLN, gathering funds in sub-accounts for over 80 units of health service and about 1200 individuals.

In the period 1994-1996, Prof. Jerzy Wroński was the plenipotentiary of Rector Prof. Jerzy Czernik in charge of building the New University Hospital.

During 1995-1998, he was a member of the Coordination Team for Controlling the Effects of Multi-organ

gan Injuries at the Ministry of Health and Social Care. Prof. Jerzy Wroński was an initiator of the Ministry of Health's creation in 1996 of the Spinal Implants Bank for the needs of neurosurgery and orthopaedics.

On the 1st of October 1999, Prof. Jerzy Wroński retired.

From the 1st of February 2000, he was employed half-time, acting as the head of the Neurosurgical Department of the Regional Hospital in Zielona Góra, which he reactivated and directed until 30 April 2002.

The last article by Prof. Jerzy Wroński was published in the Polish Neurology and Neurosurgery in March 2009, and concerned the activity of Dr. Ernest Ferens, the first manager of the Neurosurgery Clinic of the University and Polytechnic of Wrocław in the years 1948-1950.

On 5 June 2009, in the Auditorium of John Paul II of the Academic Clinical Hospital in Wrocław, Borowska Street, a ceremonial meeting of the Lower Silesia Division of PSNS, *Lower Silesia Neurosurgery*, was held. This unique meeting was devoted to the 80th birthday of Professor Jerzy Wroński. The meeting was attended by colleague professors, physicians, former and current employees of the Neurosurgery Clinic, as well as friends and acquaintances of the Professor from Poland and abroad, numbering some 70 persons. During the cele-

brations, among others, the scientific and professional achievements of the Professor were recalled, the Golden Badge of Honour *Academia Medica Wratislaviensis* was awarded, occasional instances were delivered, and letters and addresses from Prof. Klaus von Wild from Germany, Prof. Marek Czosnyka from England, and Prof. Eduard Zvěřina from the Czech Republic were read. The Organisational Committee of the Jubilee has prepared a special 134-page publication in the series of *Magistro et Medico – in gratitude to Professor Jerzy Wroński for the years of his medical, scientific and pedagogical activity* (published by the Wrocław Medical University).

The list of works by Prof. Jerzy Wroński amounts to 142 publications and 99 works presented during conferences and conventions.

Professor Jerzy Wroński was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Knight's Cross of the OPR, Medal of Victory and Freedom, Bronze Grunwald Badge, Gold Cross of Merit, Bronze Medal for Merit for National Defence, Badge of Distinguished Employee of Health Service, and the Builder of Wrocław Badge.

Professor Jerzy Wroński passed away on the 16th of June 2011, and was buried in the cemetery of Holy Family at Smętna Street, Wrocław, Sępolno.