

Report from the conference of the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine, 15.04.2011

On 15 April 2011 a ceremonial Conference of the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine took place in the Rector's Senate Hall of Warsaw Medical University in Warsaw.

The meeting was open and consisted of two parts.

The first part was a ceremony of granting titles of Honourable Membership of PTMN (Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine) to seven eminent professors and scientists connected with the Society's activity.

On behalf of the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine, the honourable guests and participants of the meeting were welcomed by Professor Leszek Królicki, MD, PhD, the President of the Executive Board (Figure 1). The profiles of the people awarded with the title of Honourable Member of PTMN were presented by their closest colleagues, often their successors.

Doctor Beata Chrapko presented the profile of Professor Janina Zaorska-Rajca.

Professor Janina Zaorska-Rajca MD, PhD

Prof. Janina Zaorska-Rajca was born on 19 January 1936 in Glinny Stok in the district of Parczew. She completed high school in 1953 in Lublin. In 1965 she received a medical doctor's diploma from the Medical Division of the Medical Academy in Lublin. Within the years 1963 to 1972 she worked in the Second Clinic of Internal Disease of the Medical Academy (AM) in Lublin, holding the position of hospital assistant. She is a specialist in internal disease and nuclear medicine.

From May 1971 she worked in the Nuclear Medicine Unit, AM in Lublin. In 1978 she received the title of Doctor of Medical Sciences based on a thesis entitled "Radiospirometry and perfusion scintigraphy in particular respiratory disorders". In 1992 she received a post-doctoral degree based on the following thesis: "Evaluation of right ventricle function by the use of radioisotope methods".

From 1990 to 1992, as well as working in the Nuclear Medicine Unit, AM, she also worked part time in the Province Specialist Hospital in Lublin, where she established and ran the Nuclear Medicine Department. In October 2002 she held the position of the Head of the Department and Nuclear Medicine Unit of the Medical

Academy in Lublin as an associate professor until February 2005 when she retired.

Prof. J. Zaorska-Rajca supervised theses and was a nuclear specialty supervisor for three physicians. Her academic work includes 57 publications in academic journals. She held the position of the Secretary of the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine for several years.

Biographies of Doctor Anzelmina Karwowska and Professor Dariusz Brykalski were presented by Professor Jacek Kuśmierk.

Anzelmina Karwowska MD, PhD

Anzelmina Karwowska MD, PhD graduated from the Medical Academy in Łódź in 1963.

Within the years 1963 to 1972 she worked on the Internal Disease Ward of Province Hospital in Zgierz. In 1972 she started



Figure 1. Welcoming speech by Prof. Leszek Królicki, President of the Executive Board of PTMN.

work in the Radioisotope Department in the said hospital, and she actively participated in establishing this unit with Prof. D. Brykalski. In 1976 she completed her specialty in nuclear medicine (she also holds specialties in internal disease and endocrinology). She is one of the pioneers of nuclear medicine in the country. Within the years 1976 to 2000 she held the position of Chief of Isotope Diagnosis and Therapy Department in Zgierz contributing to the development and modernization of the facility. At that time she also took a doctorate's degree.

Several specialists in nuclear medicine had the honour of being educated under her supervision. She had a special interest in developing possibilities for the therapeutic use of nuclear medicine. At that time the unit in Zgierz became the second iodine-131 facility for the therapy of thyroid carcinoma in Poland.

A. Karwowska is one of the initiators and co-authors of a research project conducted with the Institute of Labour Medicine in Łódź. The project was aimed at evaluating ionizing radiation exposure in families of patients treated with iodine-131.

During the entire period of her professional activity she has participated in both national and international conventions and congresses devoted to nuclear medicine. She is still professionally active.

Anzelmína Karwowska MD, PhD has been a member of the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine since its establishment. Before this she was a member of the Nuclear Medicine Section of the Polish Medical Radiology Society.

Professor Dariusz Brykalski MD, PhD

Prof. Dariusz Brykalski received his medical doctor's diploma from the Medical Academy of Łódź in 1958.

In the years 1958 to 1969 he worked in the Radiation Protection Unit of the Labour Medicine Institute in Łódź, where he was the head of the Radiology and Experimental Radiotoxicology Unit. In this period he attended a one-year training course in the Nuclear Research Centre near Rome. In 1968 he started work in Province Hospital in Zgierz, where he established a Radioisotope Diagnosis Unit. On a national scale it was the first facility of this kind not connected with an academic institution. He held the position of its head until 1976.

In 1970 he took his doctorate, and in 1971 he took his specialty in nuclear medicine. He is one of the principal specialists in this field in Poland.

In 1976 he started work in the Nuclear Medicine Unit of the Radiology Institute of the Medical Academy of Łódź, where he was the head of the Radioisotope Diagnostic Department, and in the years 1988 to 2001 held the position of deputy head of the Institute.

In 1983 he was granted a post-doctoral degree, and in 1996 he became a Professor of the Medical Academy of Łódź.

His academic achievements include over 100 works published in journals and presented at scientific conventions and conferences. They refer mainly to issues connected with protection from ionizing radiation and radioisotope diagnostics, and most importantly neoplastic lesions. He supervised eight doctorate theses.

Prof. Brykalski held the position of one of the authorities of the Medical Academy of Łódź for many years. He was Deputy Dean of

Science, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical Academy of Łódź (for two terms), and Clinical Vice-rector.

He actively participated in works connected with joining the Medical Academy of Łódź and the Military Medical Academy and establishing the Medical University of Łódź in 2002. He became the Rector's Proxy for Supervision and Control over the Teaching Hospitals of the Medical University.

In the years 2006 to 2009 he held the position of Chief in one of the University Teaching Hospitals.

Prof. D. Brykalski is still professionally active; he is chief deputy in his hospital. Moreover, he holds the position of chairman of the Accreditation Expert Team in Nuclear Medicine appointed by the Minister of Health.

He was awarded numerous accolades for his professional activity, including a Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and a Gold Cross of Merits.

Prof. Dariusz Brykalski has been a member of the PTMN (Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine) since its establishment, and previously he was a member of the Nuclear Medicine Section of the PLTR (Polish Medical Radiology Society). He was also a member of the Executive Board of the Society and later, of its Local Office in Łódź.

The life and merits of Professor Zbigniew Szybiński and Professor Bogdan Huszno were presented by Professor Alicja Hubalewska-Dydejczyk.

Professor Zbigniew Szybiński MD, PhD

Professor Zbigniew Szybiński was born in 1932 in Tarnowskie Góry in Poland. He graduated from the Medicine Faculty of the Medical Academy in Krakow in 1955. He completed his PhD thesis in 1962 and was appointed professor of medicine in 1989. He was recognized as a nuclear medicine physician and officer of radiation safety in 1960, as an internal medicine specialist in 1962, and as an endocrinologist in 1979. From 1973 to 2002 he held the position of head of the Department of Endocrinology, Collegium Medicum Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He retired in 2003. He visited the Nuclear Medicine Unit of Hammersmith Hospital in London in 1963, and the leading nuclear medicine centres in the United States in 1975 (Project Hope, USA). In 1997 he was awarded a scientific grant from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna to visit the leading centres for an investigation into thyroid cancer in Uppsala, Radiumhemmet, Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, and the Public Health Institute in Helsinki. As an expert of the IAEA he established the Nuclear Medicine Units in the Connaught Hospital in Freetown (Sierra Leone) from 1982 to 1984 and the Nuclear Medicine Unit of Saint Malaysia University in Kota-Bharu in 1991.

Professor Szybiński contributed to the opening of the second Polish Nuclear Medicine Unit in the Endocrinology Department of the Medical Academy in Krakow. He introduced thyroid ¹³¹I uptake as a routine examination and evaluated the reference values of iodine uptake in the Polish population. Prof. Szybinski is the author of the first publication concerning the absorption of ¹³¹I-labelled albumin and oil. He also applied the catheterization of lymphatic vessels in rats to obtain ¹³¹I-labelled chylomicrons for lipid distribution and transport assessment. He performed the first radiocardiographic heart examination with the use of ¹³¹I-labelled

albumin in 1965. He was also interested in the implementation of radioimmunoassays in clinical diagnostics and was the first in Poland to apply this method for the evaluation of gastrin and insulin levels.

From 1992 to 1994 he investigated iodine deficiency and endemic goitre in school children and in pregnant women in Poland. He has been the Head of the Polish Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (PCCIDD) since its establishment in 1991.

He published 4 monographs and over 200 papers, and organized several local and international meetings devoted to nuclear medicine and endocrinology. He is a member of the European Nuclear Medicine Association, the European Thyroid Association, the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, the European Diabetes Epidemiology Group and relevant Polish Society for Endocrinology and Diabetology, and the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Professor Bohdan Huszno MD, PhD

Professor Bohdan Huszno was born in 1937 in Częstochowa, Poland. He graduated from the Medicine Faculty of the Medical Academy in Krakow in 1962. He became a specialist in internal medicine, endocrinology, and nuclear medicine.

The subject of his PhD thesis, presented in 1979, was thyroid function assessment. The early diagnostics of thyroid cancer was the topic of his postdoctoral lecturing qualification (assistant professor, 1989). From 2002 to 2007 he held the position of head of the Endocrinology Department at Jagiellonian University Medical College. Professor Huszno received nuclear medicine training in the Sophia Medical Centre in France (1983) and at the Medizinische Hochschule in Hanover, Germany (1985).

For more than 20 years Prof. Huszno held the position of Head of the Nuclear Medicine Unit of the Endocrinology Department of the Medical Academy in Krakow (since 1993 the Nuclear Medicine Unit, Endocrinology Department, Jagiellonian University, *Collegium Medicum*). During that time, in the early 1980s, the Nuclear Medicine Unit was equipped with a rotating gamma camera connected by computer systems. This provided the technical possibility to introduce modern dynamic and static isotopic examinations with the use of planar and tomographic (SPECT) techniques. Professor Huszno contributed to the development of isotopic techniques applied in clinical diagnostics. Among others, heart examinations with the use of ^{201}Tl and parathyroid gland imaging were performed in Krakow, among the first in Poland.

He is a member of numerous scientific societies including the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine and the Polish and European Society for Endocrinology. Prof. Huszno is the author of more than 140 publications and several chapters in edited texts.

His major research interest was the implementation of nuclear medicine techniques in toxicology and in organ injury assessment after intoxication with xenobiotics. He pioneered examinations of liver injuries after mercury and lead poisoning. He was also interested in the evaluation of diabetic neuropathy of the digestive tract with the use of isotopic techniques.

Prof. Huszno's efforts contributed to the opening of a daily centre of ^{131}I therapy for patients with hyperthyroidism and a ward for differential thyroid cancer patients treated with ^{131}I .

Professor Mirosław Dziuk presented the profile of Professor Karol Chmielowski.

Professor Karol Chmielowski MD, PhD

Prof. Karol Chmielowski was born in Ulanów, located near the confluence of the Tanew and San Rivers.

He graduated from the Military Academy of Medicine in Łódź, where he received his medical doctor's diploma in 1963. In 1977 he took his doctorate, and in 1986 he received a post-doctoral degree. Both doctoral and post-doctoral theses were conducted in the Central Clinical Hospital in Warsaw. He holds a specialty in nuclear medicine and neurology.

He has published 50 scientific works. He is the author of the chapter on the central nervous system in the "Nuclear Medicine" coursebook as well as numerous entries in the "Radiology Lexicon". His most significant scientific publications refer to: radioisotope diagnostics of disorders of the central nervous system, regional cerebral blood flow, cerebrospinal fluid circulation, disorders of the salivary glands and paranasal sinus diseases, disorders of tear outflow and the skeletal system, radioisotope palliative treatment of metastatic bone pain, and radioisotope diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and other Parkinson's syndromes.

Prof. K. Chmielowski was a supervisor of doctorate theses twice and a supervisor of nuclear medicine specialties for two physicians.

In 1996 he received the title of associate professor in CSK WAM (Central Clinical Hospital, Military Institute of Medicine) in Warsaw. From 1975 he worked as Head of the Nuclear Medicine Unit of CSK WAM in Warsaw. He was a member of the Scientific Council of POLATOM Institute of Atomic Energy, Radioisotope Centre in Świerk near Warsaw (1995–2003).

Prof. K. Chmielowski was very active in the Polish Society of Nuclear Medicine (PTMN). In the years 1998 to 2005 he was a member of the Executive Board of PTMN and at the same time a member of the Editing Team of "Problems in Nuclear Medicine" ("Problemy Medycyny Nuklearnej").

He was awarded numerous honours for his academic work, including a Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1991. In 1978 he was awarded a UNEF II In The Service Of Peace medal.

Professor Stanisław Nowak's profile was presented by Doctor Tomasz Gołąb.

Professor Stanisław Nowak MD, PhD

Prof. Stanisław Nowak was born on 10 April 1933 in Krakow. He received a medical doctor's diploma in 1955 from the Medical Academy in Krakow. Following temporary military service in the years 1957 to 1959 he moved to Upper Silesia where he worked in the Biochemistry Department of the Silesian Medical Academy for one year. He was then employed in Hospital no. 2 in Bytom. In March 1961 he started work in the Third Internal Disease Clinic — first as a senior assistant and later as a senior lecturer. Following the transformation of the Clinic in 1974 he was relocated to the Isotope Unit and subsequently to the then newly established Isotope Diagnostics Unit of the Silesian Medical Academy in Katowice–Ligota, where he held the position of head from 1976



Figure 2. Medal for Honourable Members of PTMN.



Figure 3. Prof. Leszek Królicki awarding the medal and diploma of Honourable Member of PTMN to Prof. Zbigniew Szybiński.



Figure 4. Honourable Members of PTMN. From the left: Prof. Dariusz Brykalski, Prof. Karol Chmielowski, Doctor Anzelmina Karwowska, Prof. Zbigniew Szybiński, Prof. Stanisław Nowak, and Prof. Bogdan Huszno.



Figure 5. Lecture presentation: "PET/MR: the Molecular Imaging Dream Team".

until retiring in 2003. Currently, he is still professionally active in the "Clinica Medica" civil law partnership — Nuclear Medicine Centre NZOZ (Exton Medical Arts Group), Specialist Medical Services in Tychy. He has taught nuclear medicine to students of medicine at the Silesian Medical University for many years. Since retiring he has been teaching only foreign students.

He holds a specialty in nuclear medicine and internal disease. In 1961 he received his medical doctor's degree and in 1977 a medical science post-doctoral degree. Prof. Nowak served internships and training sessions abroad: in the Biochemistry Institute in Zürich, in the Internal Disease Clinic in Strasbourg, and in the Nuclear Medicine Institute in Hannover.

In the Isotope Diagnostic Unit of the Silesian Medical Academy in Katowice Ligota he and a team of his colleagues conducted research on the usefulness of radioisotope methods, mainly in the diagnostics of circulatory and digestive tract disorders. He is the author and co-author of 67 academic articles, mostly original works published in medical journals, including 11 foreign magazines and nuclear medicine coursebooks for students as well as medical books published in Poland.

Prof. Stanisław Nowak has been an active member of the Silesian District Medical Chamber in Katowice for many years. He held the highly responsible position of Vice-Chairman (I, III, and IV term) and Chairman (II term) of the District Office of Professional Medical Conduct. Currently, he is still a member of the District Office of Professional Medical Conduct. In October 2010, during the ceremony of the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of NSZZ "Solidarność" (Independent and Self-governing Trade Union Solidarność) of the Silesian Medical Academy, he was awarded a gold Medal of Śląsko-Dąbrowski Region NZSZZ "Solidarność", and in December 2010 during the ceremony of 75 years of the Silesian Doctors Self-governed Body he was granted a Gold Badge for merits to the Silesian Province.

All the persons honoured the ceremony with their presence except for Prof. Janina Zaorska-Rajca, whose family situation prevented her from participating.

The honourable scientists were awarded commemorative medals and diplomas by the President of the Executive Board of PTMN (Figures 2–4). The honourable scientists and other participants were deeply moved. The final part of the ceremony was an outstandingly dynamic and inspiring yet educational lecture given by Prof. Zbigniew Szybiński, honourable member of PTMN on the following topic: "My adventure with Nuclear Medicine".

The second, scientific part of the meeting consisted of three thematic sessions. The participants listened to lectures prepared by the main sponsor of the ceremony – Philips. The first session was devoted to a new, currently implemented diagnostic method — PET/MR. A presentation, "PET/MR: the Molecular Imaging Dream Team", was given by Piotr Maniawski, MSc, Director of Clinical Science – Nuclear Medicine, Philips Healthcare (Figure 5). The second session focused on the latest achievements in IBA proton therapy. The lecture "Recent developments making the IBA Proton Therapy System more accessible" was given by Claude Dupont, Vice President of Integration & Sales, IBA Sales & Marketing. The final thematic session entitled "From the basement to the forefront of imaging: the future of nuclear medicine" was also conducted by Piotr Maniawski. Summaries of the thematic sessions are available below.

The participants found the lectures very interesting, which was proven by the lively discussion by both the participants and the lecturers.

The editors of Nuclear Medicine Review would like to cordially thank the presenters for providing biographical materials about the awarded persons.

Nuclear Medicine Review Editors