

50th Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology, 19–20 May 2011, Lodz, Poland

From the Editors

The 50th Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology held on 19–20 May 2011 in Lodz reminds of February 1962, when the first such meeting took place. The initiator of Clinical Days was Prof. Józef Wacław Grott, and the first organizers and followers were Dr. Ryszard Kuźmicki, Prof. Rościław Kadłubowski and Prof. Alicja Kurnatowska. The organizational effort has been undertaken for half a century by the Polish Parasitological Society, Lodz Division and Biology and Medical Parasitology Department of the Medical University (former Medical Academy) in Lodz. Among co-operators were various commissions of the Committee for Parasitology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Parasitological Society and numerous medical scientific societies. The thematic scope of annual meetings concerned most common domestic parasitoses and mycoses in various aspects, from biology via pathology, pathomorphology, clinical science, epidemiology and diagnostics, to end with therapy. Among issues raised at meetings in Lodz were also ecological aspects, as well as parasitic diseases and tropical mycoses.

Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology, despite the name implying limited subject matter, in practice provided broad framework for discussion going far beyond clinical issues. They attracted

attention of specialists in all medical disciplines who presented results of their research apart from programme papers. The number of such presentations has been estimated as surpassing one and a half thousand since the first Clinical Days. The participants of Clinical Days came from various circles and institutions: universities, research institutes, diagnostic stations, public health care, domestic and foreign pharmaceutical companies.

Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology will go down in the history of the Polish Parasitological Society as an outstanding event. For half a century those regular cyclic meetings were the forum for exchanging ideas and experience in the field of parasitology, not solely medical. Moreover, this year's 50th Jubilee Clinical Day is an occasion to remind enormous effort undertaken by a few parasitologists who organized meetings in Lodz. The great commitment and contribution of Prof. Alicja Kurnatowska, whose meritorical initiative and organizational abilities guaranteed success of subsequent Clinical Days, cannot be overestimated.

We wish the organizers of Clinical Days further organizational perseverance in the hope that the meetings in Lodz will serve science and practice for decades to come.