

## Chronicle

### Professor Jolanta Kwaśniewska – information on academic, teaching and organizational achievements connected with retirement



Professor Jolanta Kwaśniewska was born on the 28th of April 1942 in Skarżysko Kamienna. Her father Adam Karczewski was a dermatologist, Doctor of Philosophy in medicine (degree obtained at Jagiellonian University in Kraków). She passed her exam for secondary school certificate (maturity exam) in 1959. She studied at the Medical Faculty of the Medical Academy of Łódź and was awarded the diploma of a medical doctor in 1965. In 1964 she started working as a scientific-technical assistant at the Chair of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Medical Academy in Łódź. Further, in 1965 she got promoted to the post of assistant, in 1967 – senior assistant and in 1973 after her PhD examination when she presented her doctoral dissertation „Susceptibility of *Candida* and *Geotrichum* fungi to nystatin and an attempt to obtain *in vitro* a nystatin-resistant *Candida albicans* strain” – she was offered the post of a senior lecturer.

In 1978 she obtained First Degree specialization in dermatology and venereology. Between the years

1978 and 1989 she additionally worked as a consultant doctor in the Clinic of Skin Mycosis of the Public Specialist Dermatological Health Care Center in Łódź.

In 1986 she completed the habilitation proceedings presenting her dissertation „Mycostatic activity of new derivatives of nystatin and polifungin on fungal strains isolated from recurrent mycoses”. Having been awarded the habilitation qualification she was employed at the position of associate professor at the Medical Academy in 1987 and took over the post of *professor extraordinarius* at the Medical Academy in 1992. In 2000 she was awarded the title of Professor. Since 2006 she has been working as *professor ordinarius* at the Medical University of Łódź. Since 2003 she has managed the Department of Diagnostics and Treatment of Parasitic Diseases and Mycoses, Chair of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Medical University of Łódź.

In 1983 she fulfilled her internship at Andrij Štampara’s Škola Narodnog Zdravlja in Zagreb, a leading Croatian diagnostic center.

In 1988 during her private stay in Canada she participated in a laboratory training in Laboratory Services Branch, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology, University of Toronto, Ministry of Health and acquired knowledge on mycosis diagnostics, methods of fungal strain differentiation and laboratory scientific activities. Between 1990 and 1994 she periodically underwent training in Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, Women’s College Hospital in Toronto and Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto Teaching Hospitals mastering the reference, hitherto not applied in Poland NCCLS method of determination of fungal susceptibility to medicines.

Her academic activity in the Chair included: the effects of newly-synthesized chemical compounds on fungi from various taxonomic units and several

protozoans, examination of selected morphological and biochemical features of *Candida* strains with decreased susceptibility to antifungal medicines obtained in *in vitro* experiments or isolated from patients unsuccessfully treated with these medicines, assessment of fungal infections among patients from higher-risk groups i.e. with diabetes mellitus type 2 or patients with autoimmune diseases, recognizing the role of fungi as etiological factors in chronic non-healing wounds, studies on multifocal candidiasis and recurrent candidiasis in males and their sexual partners.

Major scientific achievements of prof. Jolanta Kwaśniewska include: determination of the involvement of fungal reservoir in male reproductive organs in recurrent candidiasis of vulva and vagina in their female partners, which contributed to an improvement of treatment efficacy for that form of mycosis; elaboration of an algorithm of male reproductive organs candidiasis diagnostics (concept and authorship of a series of publications); determination of changes in some morphologic and biochemical features of *Candida* strains with increased resistance to drugs obtained in *in vitro* experiments or isolated from patients from risk groups.

She is the author of 131 publications, 9 chapters in textbooks and 12 unpublished expert opinions. She delivered about 180 papers and reports during numerous sessions of scientific societies, congresses and conferences, both Polish and international – organized in Poland as well as during foreign congresses held in Toronto, Paris, Brussels and Lisboa among others. She was the promoter of 4 doctoral dissertations, 5 master's theses and 1 bachelor's thesis. She reviewed doctoral dissertations, master's and bachelor's theses, journal publications, handbooks and reports for the use of the State Committee for Scientific Research. She was invited to the works of organizational committees of congresses, to participate in moderating discussions at the round table or presiding over the proceedings at the congresses as well as to deliver her lectures.

Since 1964, as a part of her teaching activity she conducted tutorials, firstly on biology and medical parasitology, later on biology with genetics and ecology for the first year students of the Medical Faculty, Faculty of Dental Medicine and the formerly existing Division of Medical Hygiene. She also conducted parasitology classes for fourth- and sixth-year students (subject: Infectious diseases),

medical mycology (subject: medical microbiology), parasitology with mycology for third-year students of the Medical Faculty and Division of Dental Medicine. In 1987–1990 she delivered lectures and organized exams in biology with genetics and ecology for first-year students of the Medical Faculty, since 1995 – for first-year students of the Division of Dental Medicine and since the academic year 1997/98 (i.e. since the moment of formation) lectures and examinations for first-year students of the Division of Nursery and Midwifery, Medical University of Łódź. She also conducted lectures and tutorials for medical studies in English at the Faculty of Military Medicine, Medical University of Łódź.

For more than 30 years she has been engaged as a lecturer in post-graduate courses not only at the Medical Centre of Postgraduate Teaching in Warsaw but also at the Medical Academy and Medical University of Łódź; she also gave lectures at the Lodz Technical University between 1996 and 2000. She was frequently invited to the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical Academy of Łódź to deliver lectures. She trained many doctors and laboratory staff individually in the field of medical mycology.

Professor Jolanta Kwaśniewska was many times an examiner in biology and medical parasitology for PhD candidates and – in medical mycology for doctors completing their II<sup>o</sup> specialization in dermatology and venereology.

While performing her doctor's activity at the University she has been consulting patients from the area of Poland and outside the country at the Department of Diagnostics and Treatment of Parasitic Diseases and Mycoses, Chair of Biology and Parasitology of the Medical University of Łódź since 1984.

As regards organizational activities, she performed the function of the Scientific Secretary of the Łódź Division of the Polish Society for Parasitology for 25 years (1967–1991). She fulfilled the roles of a scientific secretary at the numerous annual Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology as well as at Polish Antitrichomonal Symposia IV and VII (Zakopane 1968, Łódź 1980) and Vice-President of the Organizational Committee for the Clinical Days, XIX Convention of the Polish Society for Parasitology (Łódź – Arturówek 2001). She participated in the work of the organizational committee of the International Conference on Trichomonadosis under the auspices of the WHO

(Białystok 1981). She participated in the work of the Medical Parasitology Section of the Main Board of the Polish Society for Parasitology; she was the scientific secretary of the Trichomonadosis Commission of that Society and its member for the following term. She has been the President of the Łódź Division of the Polish Society for Parasitology since 2004 and the President of the Organizational Committee of consecutive Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology. She has been a member of the Mycology Section of the Polish Society for Dermatology, member of the Mycology Team of the Parasitology Committee, the 2nd Department of the Polish Academy of Sciences, member of the Scientific Committee of a journal „Medical Mycology”. She has been a member of the Polish Society for Parasitology, Polish Society for Dermatology, European Confederation of Medical Mycology.

Professor Jolanta Kwaśniewska worked for

different commissions at the University. Her name and biographical note is included in numerous publications concerning Polish medicine.

In 1993 she obtained the team award of the Minister of Health and Social Care as a co-author of a monograph; she was repeatedly awarded by His Magnificence Rector of the Medical Academy for her scientific and teaching achievements.

Professor Jolanta Kwaśniewska was honored with the Gold Cross of Merit in 1986, the medal for the 50th Anniversary of the Medical Academy of Łódź, the Medal for the 50th Anniversary of the Polish Parasitological Society in 1998, the Medal „Sixty-five Years of University Medical Teaching in Łódź” in 2010 and finally, with another Gold Cross of Merit in 2012.

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