

Chronicle

Doctor Jacek Lachowicz DVM, PhD (1951–2015)



On May 18, 2015 Doctor Jacek Lachowicz passed away. He was a veterinary doctor, a parasitologist, a researcher of wild animals parasites, a long time assistant professor in Laboratory of Parasitoses of Wild Animals of Witold Stefanski Institute of Parasitology of Polish Academy of Sciences.

Doctor Jacek Lachowicz was born on 8th of September 1951 in Warsaw. He attended Primary School No. 130 of Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Warsaw. In 1969 he graduated from High School No.10 of Queen Jadwiga and entered the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW). After graduating from the University in 1975 he received a position of assistant at the Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition Polish Academy of Sciences in Jabłonna. In 1978 he started his PhD studies in the Institute of Parasitology of the Polish Academy of Sciences under the guidance of Professor Jan Drózdź. In 1983 he completed a PhD thesis on „Biological and ecological factors influencing the formation of outbreaks of parafasciolopsosis in domestic animals” and received a degree of a doctor of sciences, and was promoted to the position of assistant professor.

In 1986, Doctor Lachowicz took a three-month research internship covering the parasites of wild animals in Laboratory of Helminthology in Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the All-

Union Institute of Helminthology in Moscow. In 1987 he held an internship for parasites and parasitoses of farm bread deer at the University of Agriculture in Kaposvar and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In 1997, he obtained medical-veterinary specialization in the field of non-domesticated animal diseases. As an assistant professor, then senior specialist he worked in the Laboratory of Parasitoses of Wild Animals until his last days.

Great scientific achievements of Doctor Lachowicz include authorship and co-authorship of 134 scientific publications, including 86 original papers on parasites and factors shaping parasitofauna of free-living ruminants, and parasitoses occurring in them. This rich legacy made Doctor Lachowicz one of the best specialists in the country and undisputed authority in this field. The most important scientific achievements of Doctor Lachowicz include: examining and describing the clinical course of parafasciolopsosis of domestic ruminants, participation in research and describing the formation of helminthofauna of bison in Poland and its changes in 35 years from the restitution of this species, participation in examining helminthofauna of deer found in the country, helminthofauna development of beavers, participation in determining the dangerous spread of parasitic diseases: asworthiosis and dirofilariosis on the Polish territory and, more recently, in the study of the focus within the American liver fluke *Fascioloides magna* in Lower Silesia. These studies are permanently written in the Polish parasitology.

He was also a long-standing member of the Polish Parasitological Society, Warsaw Chamber of Veterinary, European Bison Friend Society and a founding member of the Polish Deer Breeders Association, where he also was a member of the Ethics Committee. For scientific achievements he was awarded the Prize of the Scientific Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences and of the Silver Cross of Merit.

Doctor Lachowicz was heavily involved in

research, particularly difficult field research conducted over many years during the winter elimination of bison in the Białowieża Forest and the Bieszczady Mountains. He had an immense biological knowledge beyond the scope of

discipline, and yet he was very humble, kind and helpful to his colleagues. As such he will always remain in our memories.

Prof. dr hab. Aleksander W. Demiaszkiewicz