

## *My final farewell to Professor Jerzy Radecki*

About twelve years ago I met Jerzy Radecki and Hanna Radecka for the first time. We were introduced to one another by Professor Włodzimierz Zagórski-Ostojka (1939-2015), who told me that I was going to meet some very interesting scientists. He also added that he hoped the meeting would result in a great collaboration. Indeed, he was right. Our collaboration was very fruitful. Together, in the years 2011-2019, we published 13 papers and prepared numerous conference abstracts.

For several years we worked as a part of the consortium of several Polish laboratories focusing on vaccines against avian influenza and detection of the virus. One of the objectives was to devise electrochemical biosensors to monitor the virus and to detect the infected individuals. Due to the regular and frequent meetings of all participants, the exchange of ideas was immense. Jerzy and Hanna were the only chemists among the numerous biologists. Their knowledge and experience were an important added value. During the consortium meetings, many discussions were enriched by Jurek's profound comments. He also insisted on a common language understandable both to biologists and to chemists. Without any doubts, thanks to him, we have achieved so much more.

Jurek's enthusiasm and originality allowed him to successfully introduce new ideas to our collaborative work. Together, we verified the feasibility of several types of genosensors for detection of viral nucleic acids, and several types of immunosensors for detection of not only viral antigens but also anti-viral antibodies in serum. Jerzy and Hanna were jointly responsible for the chemical parts of the projects while my group delivered the biological components. It was a great collaboration supported by excellent knowledge, perfect organization, and a deep involvement in the project. Actually, it is difficult to think solely about Jerzy because Jerzy and Hanna were always together. They were complementing and supporting each other in their research ideas and plans. I still remember our endless discussions about new ideas that, at the first glance, looked so impossible to achieve but somehow, in a collaboration, appeared realistic and produced reliable results.

It is not only science that I remember when I think about Jerzy Radecki. Outside of the world of science, Jurek and Hania were enjoying their free time together, and with friends. They shared their common passions for travels, horse riding, and decorating their house and garden. Jurek loved to travel and to plan new exotic trips. It was really fascinating to listen to the stories about their escapades and to see the photos from their trips.

I consider myself very privileged to have been able to collaborate with Jurek and I will miss our academic discussions as well as our chats on non-scientific topics tremendously.

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