

In Memory of Professor Jerzy Radecki

I have come to know Professor Jerzy Radecki through his wife Professor Hanna Radecka. She was a visiting researcher in my laboratory on two occasions, first from January 1987 to April 1988 at Hokkaido University, then from April to December 1997 at the University of Tokyo, both of which were funded by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). It was Jerzy who had encouraged her to apply for the JSPS Visiting Fellowship, despite that Poland's domestic crises in the 80s meant that she was to be obliged to leave her husband and a young child in her home country. Since then, Hanna and I co-authored many research papers. Indeed, Jerzy was the one who had enabled her to make a further progress in her academic career. In my eyes, they had been a perfect team both in their private life as well as research work, which reminded me of Marie and Pierre Curie.

Throughout the past three decades, my wife Kayoko and I have had an honour to meet Hanna and Jerzy on many occasions, both in Japan and Poland. I can still recall the vivid memory of our very first visit to Olsztyn, when their daughter Dorothy, now a promising young biologist, was a little girl. Although their laboratory was not so well equipped back then, we came to witness a gradual yet steady development over the years. In the meantime, research areas of Hanna and Jerzy had widely expanded in developing electrochemical sensors, immunosensors and genosensors, especially immunosensors working on ion-channel mimetic mode and based on redox active monolayers destined for detections of different kinds of viruses, antibodies, and markers of neurodegenerative diseases. I had an opportunity to give a lecture at the Summer School in Lańsk, Poland in Autumn 2009 upon their kind invitation. Moreover, they very kindly invited my wife and I to their private home together with my daughter Hanako, where we had a pleasant stay in two consecutive summers in 2016 and 2017. Their sincere hospitality had made our time together even more relaxing and memorable. Jerzy was not only a distinguished scholar but also a very active, cheerful, thoughtful and intelligent gentleman. We spent hours talking about not only chemistry, but also history, politics, architecture, languages, arts, music, and so on. He dearly loved his family, Hanna and Dorothy, and their lovely two dogs. It was obvious that he was having a full life outside of chemistry as well, working around their cosy house, taking care of the garden, and enjoying horse-riding. We were actually talking about Hanna and Jerzy and the relaxing lifestyle they would have after their recent retirement, when we were saddened by the most unexpected news of the demise of Jerzy. He was indeed a great gentleman with a big heart. He will be sorely missed by our entire family.

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