

In Memory of Professor Jerzy Radecki

The very end of the 20th century in Poland was marked by a dynamic development of supramolecular chemistry, gathering the community from many research centers. The Polish Supramolecular Chemistry Network in 1998 decided to organize the Network Symposia in the forthcoming years. Professor Jerzy Radecki took up this challenge and invited the team from the Department of Chemical Technology (at present Department of Chemistry and Technology of Functional Materials), Gdansk University of Technology, to cooperate in organizing the Symposia. As suggested by prof. Radecki, the meetings took place in Olsztyn, at the Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Thanks to prof. Radecki, four annual meetings were held and inaugurated in 1999 in the newly opened building of the Institute. Only the first meeting, called "Mikrosymposium Chemii Supramolekularnej" was officially conducted in Polish. In the following years (2000-2002), the name "Symposium of the Polish Supramolecular Chemistry Network" was adopted and conducted in English.

The general idea of these meetings was primarily to create conditions for unhindered presentations of one's own achievements in the form of a lecture in a friendly, almost family atmosphere for the youngest adepts of supramolecular chemistry for a group of about 40-50 listeners. There it was easy to overcome the stage fright associated with the first public presentations, but it nevertheless gave a foretaste of the future life of "adult" scientists; the proof of the above is Ewa Wagner-Wysiecka, signed below.

The subsequent meetings were attended by people invited by prof. Radecki from abroad: professors Luc Nagels, Wim Dehaen, Jürgen-Hinrich Fuhrhop, Uli Lüning, Len Lindoy.

The aftermath of the Symposia, as well as the subsequent thematic discussions that took place at the Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, was a significant integration of many scientific groups. The participants had the opportunity to meet and talk to scientists from many Polish academic centers and also from abroad. For many of them, these meetings were the beginning of national and/or international cooperation.

Long conversations around the fire or by the fireplace will forever remain in our memory. Happy singing on horse-drawn carriages in forests with stops in "clearings" and taking us to picturesque places where we spent our time singing and dancing. To this day, they evoke the fondest memories in us.

That was all for the soul - but we cannot forget about the body in our memories - the wonderful regional food served at every meeting - just like at home. It was a time of great conversations not only about science, but also about life and the World ...

Prof. Jerzy Radecki, prof. Hanna Radecka and the entire team they led, never ceased to amaze us with ways of creating warm and kind atmosphere and providing comprehensive support during the meetings. With their active and insightful participation, not only many scientific contacts were created, but also friendships were born, which continue to this day. Many Polish professors and significant scientists have grown up on the basis of those meetings, discussions and cooperation.

Each meeting in Olsztyn provided many positive experiences. First of all, the passion of prof. Radecki to the culture and traditions of the region where he lived and worked as a researcher. This applies not only to the respect with which he treated the Institute, whose position and achievements he undoubtedly represented, but also to the inhabitants, local customs, culture, regional cuisine, the beauty of nature and respect for the dynamic development of the region. All these passions of prof. Jerzy Radecki were passed on and demonstrated at Olsztyn meetings.

On behalf of the team from Gdansk University of Technology,
with the utmost respect,

Prof. Elżbieta Luboch,

PhD, DSc Ewa Wagner-Wysiecka GUT Prof.

Prof. Jan F. Biernat