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## In Memory

### Professor Bogdan Kędzia (1939–2020)

Professor Bogdan Kędzia was born on January 28, 1939 in Vilnius (currently Lithuania). He spent his childhood in Wilkiszki near Vilnius, and graduated from a high school in Gdańsk. Following his interests in chemistry at that time, and following his older brother Włodzimierz, he was admitted to Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical Academy in Gdańsk. His interest in microbiology (manifested also by his brother Włodzimierz, and by the youngest of siblings, Anna), were reflected in his MA thesis entitled “Studies on the endogenous metabolism of *Staphylococcus* strains from patients and carriers”. He obtained MD in 1964. From 1965–1972 he worked as an assistant and senior assistant at the Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology, Medical Academy in Poznań (currently Poznań University of Medical Sciences). He obtained his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1970 at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical Academy in Poznań with a dissertation entitled “Metabolic properties of chloramphenicol sensitive and resistant *Staphylococcus* strains”.

In 1972, Professor Kędzia started his 48-year-long work at the Herbal Industry Institute (Instytut Przemysłu Zielarskiego) in Poznań (which changed its name to Research Institute of Medicinal Plants, currently Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants). Initially, he was an assistant professor and the head of the Microbiological Laboratory, Department of Pharmacology. From 1980–2002 he was the head of the Department of Pharmacology. From 1977–1990 he was the Secretary of the Scientific Council of the Institute. He became an associate professor in 2000 with a dissertation entitled “Research on the contamination of herbal raw material with microorganisms”. In 2001, he became a

contract professor at the Institute of Research and Medicinal Plants. From 2003–2015 he worked at the Department of Pharmacology and Phytochemistry, and from 2015–2020 (till his passing) at the Department of Innovative Biomaterials and Nanotechnology, Institute of Natural Fibres and Medicinal Plants.

Professor Bogdan Kędzia was an outstanding specialist in microbiology of herbal medicine, herbal raw material and apitherapy. His scientific achievements include nearly 700 publications, mostly in microbiology, pharmacology, phytochemistry and apitherapy. His works in microbiology concerned, among others, the metabolism of pathogenic microorganisms (in particular *Staphylococcus aureus*), nosocomial infections, drug and biological material stability and sterility, microbiological decontamination of raw material and phytopreparations, microbial contamination of herbal, cosmetic and food raw material and preparations (detection and identification of microbial contamination), the mechanism of microbial resistance to antibiotics, effectiveness of disinfectants and antiseptics as well as antimicrobial activity of substances of plant and synthetic origin (*in vivo* and *in vitro*, including newly synthesized chemicals). His works in pharmacology and phytochemistry concerned the pharmacological activities of raw plant material and herbal drugs and the relationship between the activity and the content of biologically active compounds.

A distinct and significant part of his work concerned biological and medicinal properties of apiculture products. Professor Bogdan Kędzia and his wife Elżbieta Hołderna-Kędzia published several scientific and popular science books on apitherapy,

for example “Treatment with apicultural products” (1994), “Treatment of internal diseases with available apiculture products in the light of clinical trials” (2008), “Pollen and feathers in clinical treatment” (2010), “Propolis in internal diseases” (2011) and “Apicosmetics. Honey, propolis, pollen, royal jelly, bee venom, wax” (2020).



Professor Bogdan Kedzia participated in several scientific internships, among others in China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. He was also an active member of many scientific and industrial societies, including Polish Pharmaceutical Society, Polish Society of Microbiologists, Beekeeping Scientific Society, Polish Herbal Committee, Committee for Therapy and Drug Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He served as the president of the Phytotherapy Section of the Polish Medical Association. He was a long-time Secretary of the Editorial Office and then the Managing Editor of “Herba Polonica” and “Postępy Aeroszoloterapii” (“Advances in Aerosoltherapy”). From 2004 he was the Managing Editor of the quarterly “Postępy Fitoterapii” (“Advances in Phytotherapy”). He was awarded a

Silver and Gold Cross of Merit as well as many departmental decorations and awards from scientific and social organizations.

In everyday life, he was an extremely modest person with impeccable manners. His pedantry in preparation of publications and diligent editorial work were widely known. He was devoted to his work, full of passion and ideas. His interest in travel, which resulted in numerous journeys to various regions of the world, is also worth emphasizing. He was also passionate about film, books, music, photography, fine arts and hiking. Most of all, he was an open-minded and kind person. His coworkers experienced his kindness and help in many scientific and everyday problems. We will also remember him as a conscientious, persistent, and diligent man, above all dedicated to his study and work.

He passed away on July 20, 2020, leaving work unfinished. The funeral ceremony took place July 23 in Poznań.

May he rest in peace, he will not be forgotten.

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