



IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR IZABELA KOŻUCHOWSKA-ZACHAJKIEWICZ

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On the 29th of April, 2015, there passed away Prof. Izabela Kożuchowska-Zachajkiewicz, MD, PhD. Prof. Kożuchowska-Zachajkiewicz was born in Lublin on the 26th of November, 1923. She started her work as a health care professional as an apprentice nurse at the Surgery Department of the Municipal Hospital in Lublin where she stayed until 1944. After the war, she commenced her medical studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. She received her medical diploma in 1950 as a one of the first physicians graduating by the newly established Medical University of Lublin. While still an undergraduate student, Prof. Kożuchowska started her work at the Department of Ophthalmology of the Faculty of Medicine of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin in 1948. In 1953, she was appointed a senior assistant. She received her doctoral degree in medicine in 1951 following the submission of her dissertation titled "Retinal hemorrhages in neonates". In 1958, she was appointed the lecturer. Prof. Kożuchowska-Zachajkiewicz received her habilitation in 1965 following the submission of dissertation titled "Experimental study on the development and possible methods for avoiding transplant opacity due to immune reaction in the course of intrac-



orneal lamellar keratoplasty. In 1967, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare appointed her an assistant professor. In 1970, the Minister of National Defense appointed Prof. Kożuchowska the Head

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of the Department of Ophthalmology of the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine in Warsaw. She held this position until retirement in 1996. In years 1996-1997, she continued her work at the Department of Ophthalmology of the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine in Warsaw as a scientific consultant. She was granted the title of associate professor of medicine in 1975 and full professor of medicine in 1982.

Prof. Izabela Kożuchowska-Zachajkiewicz authored about 70 scientific articles published in professional journals in Poland and abroad. She also supervised 7 doctoral dissertations. For many years, she was a member of the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Lublin and, later on, of the Scientific Board of the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine in Warsaw.

Prof. Kożuchowska was a member of the Polish Society of Ophthalmology, Society for Cryosurgery, and Society for CryoOphthalmology. She was also awarded the Knight's and Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Brown and Silver Medal of Merit for National Defense, and the Medal of Merit for the Medical University of Lublin. She was also the recipient of the 1st and 2nd Degree Awards in Military Medicine awarded by the Minister of National Defense.

Standing by the open grave of Prof. Kożuchowska, I kept thinking about her numerous publications and awards. However, perhaps the most important thing is how she will be remembered by those closest to her: her family, her collaborators, and her friends. In my memory, she will stay as a person of particular serenity that

could not be disturbed even by health problems and the passing away of her husband she experienced during her last years. She will also be remembered as a person of exceptional kindness, both to their closest as well as to more distant collaborators and patients.

Despite the fact that we were divided by one generation and we did not cultivate any close relationships, I considered Prof. Kożuchowska a very close person. This was because of the common paths we had in life and professional career as well. Just like prof. Kożuchowska, I was born and raised in Lublin. She was a friend of my parents and a guest at our family home. Also similar was the path of our professional career. Just like prof. Kożuchowska, I obtained all my scientific degrees at the Department of Ophthalmology of the Medical University of Lublin, my doctoral dissertation being supervised by my long-time mentor, Prof. Tadeusz Krwawicz. Since several years, just like Prof. Kożuchowska, I am the head of the Department of Ophthalmology of the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine in Warsaw. Thus, our professional careers are very similar while being one generation away.

Standing by the grave of Prof. Kożuchowska-Zachajkiewicz, I felt that we lost a person that had been very close to me.

On her passing away, Prof. Kożuchowska left behind her closest relatives: the only son with his wife and children.

She will be remembered forever.

Hail to her memory!