



IN MEMORY OF PROF. WIESŁAW KOWALSKI

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Colonel, MD, Associate Professor in the Military Institute of Aviation Medicine (WIML), Deputy Chairman of the Scientific Council of WIML, Wiesław Kowalski passed away on April 12, 2013.

He worked in WIML for 41 years. He was a leading specialist in the field of aviation medicine. His main areas of expertise were: aviation and diving physiology.

Professor Kowalski headed the Scientific and Training Centre of WIML. He wrote many research articles and conducted research studies related to aviation medicine. He served as a National Aviation Medicine Consultant.

Born on 13 November 1939 in Rembertów. His life's adventure with army and medicine began in 1958 when he enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the Military Medical Academy of Łódź (WAM). He graduated in 1964 with a degree of medical doctor. Afterwards he took a two-year postgraduate internship at the Central Clinical Hospital of WAM. In 1966 he became a chief of service of high altitude rescue at the 21 Tactical Reconnaissance and Artillery Aviation Regiment in Sochaczew. He taught aviation safety and security. In 1968 he gained the 1st degree specialization in aviation medicine. A year later professor Kowalski was assigned to WIML, in which he did a two year course in the department of pathophysiology. In 1971 he obtained 2nd degree specialization in aviation medicine as well as a license to conduct research in low-pressure chamber and human centrifuge. He also completed a course of diving physiology and pathology in the Department of Maritime Medicine of WAM.

In 1971 he was hired as Assistant Professor at WIML. He was particularly involved in research related to hypoxia. From 1971 to 1972 he held a 9-month research fellowship in the Mossakowski Medical Research Centre of Polish Academy of Sciences. He was working on human physical performance, studied thermoregulation in humans, hypoxia and signs of adrenergic counter-regulation.



Professor Kowalski published extensively and presented his work on numerous national and international conferences. He obtained Ph.D. in 1976. His study was dedicated to hypothermic effect of hypoxia. Same year he became a director of the Department of Flight Safety at WIML. He was responsible for training of pilots and aviation medicine research. In these years he was particularly interested in chronobiology (which was researched among the others in Soviet space program Interkosmos).

1977 proved to be a very special year for Professor Kowalski as he began to work at the Henryk Arctowski Polish Antarctic Station. He spent 15 months at the research station conducting studies on evaluation of climate determinants, thermal insulation of clothing and acclimatization to cold as well as physiological performance in Antarctic environment. He earned habilitation in aviation medicine in 1982. His habilitation thesis was based on the research conducted in the Antarctic. The

research doctorate was titled: "Human adaptation to stay in the Antarctic".

From 1982 to 1994 he was a director of the Department of Flight Safety. Later he headed the Department of Aviation Physiology. From 1997 to 1999 professor Kowalski was a deputy commandant of WIML responsible for science. In 1999 he retired, while still working at WIML. In 2001 he was appointed a director of the Department of Knowledge Management and Training. From 2006 to 2013 he headed the Scientific and Training Center of WIML.

Professor Wiesław Kowalski published more than 70 scientific papers. He was a promoter of 5 doctoral thesis and 1 habilitation thesis. In the years 1984-1988 he served as an expert of the Interdepartmental Commission for Maximum Admissible Concentrations and Intensities for Agents Harmful to Health in the Working Environment. From 1988 to 1996 he served as a member of the State Commission on Aircraft Accidents Investigation of the Polish Infrastructure Ministry. In years 1977-1999 he was a member of the Main Commission on Aircraft Accidents Investigation of the Polish Defence Ministry. From 1995 to 1997 he was a Deputy Chairman and Senior of the Air Forces of the Council of Senior Officers of the Polish Profes-

sional Soldiers. From 1999 to 2007 he was a member of the Space and Satellite Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences where he was a chairman of Space Medicine and Biology Committee. In 2001 he was appointed a National Aviation Medicine Consultant by the Minister of Health. He was in this role until 2009.

Professor Kowalski to his very last moment was an active promotor of aviation medicine and reputable lecturer. He was on the editorial board of the Polish Journal of Aviation Medicine and Psychology in which in 1993 he became a deputy Editor-in-Chief. From 1982 to 2013 Professor Kowalski was a member of the Scientific Council of WIML. From 2010 he was a president of the Polish Aviation Medicine Society. In 2012 he was awarded with the Order of Polonia Restituta, one of the highest Orders in Poland.

At the age of 74 years profesor Kowalski lost his fight against severe, incurable disease. The funeral service was held on April 17 2013 in the St . Gregory Church. The ceremony was followed by military honor service.

Our loved ones are with us as long as we remember them