

MEMORIAL



Professor Bernard Barcikowski, D.V.M., D.Sci.
1936 – 2003

We learned with deep sorrow that our friend and co-worker Professor Bernard Barcikowski passed away on January 3, 2003.

He was one of the illustrious scientists of the Kielanowski Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition of the Polish Academy of Sciences at Jabłonna. His name was synonymous with research in physiology of reproduction and growth and in introduction of new methods to measure hormones in blood for the study of domestic animals.

After graduation from the Agricultural University of Warsaw, the Faculty of Animal Husbandry and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine he joined in 1964 the scientific staff at the Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition at Jabłonna.

Bernard Barcikowski received a D.V.M. degree from the Agricultural University of Warsaw in 1969. In 1971 he joined the research team of Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, Strewsbury, Mass., U.S.A., where he worked in close collaboration with Dr. McCracken on the influence of prostaglandins on corpus luteum function, a pioneering subject at that time.

He received his Doctor of Science degree at the University of Olsztyn in 1977. The President of Poland nominated him to Professor of Veterinary Science in 1990. He then worked for six months at the University of New England, Armidale in Australia where he taught university students. He was a scientific director in the years 1978-1985, in the years 1986-1990 he held the position of director of the Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

He started his research under the supervision of Professor Eugeniusz Domański on the neuroendocrine mechanisms of the estrous cycle and ovulation in cows, sheep and pigs. He developed widely appreciated surgical methods enabling the precise investigation of pituitary-gonadal functions in different species. Another research area of interest to him was the radioimmunoassay method for the estimation of steroid and protein hormones in blood and tissues.

An open and critical mind to research problems gave him the respect of the Polish and world research community.

It should be emphasized that Prof. Bernard Barcikowski together with Dr. Katarzyna Romanowicz-Barcikowska, his wife and close co-worker, resolved many problems in the research of stress in pig reproduction and on the survival and development of embryos. He introduced new problems to the research of the Institute including the role of melatonin in the reproduction and influence of phytoestrogens on the organism.

As a director of the Institute and head of the Department of Neurophysiology and Endocrinology for many years, he paid attention to the fruitful collaboration with other Polish institutes and foreign laboratories in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Sweden, Egypt and Ukraine.

He was an active member of the Polish Society of Physiology, the Polish Society of Zootechnics, the Polish Society of Veterinary Science and the Polish Society of Endocrinology. He was of great merit to Polish science as a member of the Committee of Biology of Reproduction of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a member of Scientific Council of the Veterinary Magazine, a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences, an adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, a member of the local ethical committee and a member of scientific councils of many institutes.

Professor B. Barcikowski was the author or co-author of 111 original research papers, research communications or chapter in books.

He received many prestigious scientific awards, among others the Award of the Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Society of Endocrinology, the Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Secretary of the Agricultural and the Veterinary Department of the Polish Society of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was also decorated with medals of the Polish State for his contribution to science.

We will keep Professor Bernard Barcikowski, our director, boss and friend, in our fresh and grateful memory.

Prof. Kazimierz Kochman

Prof. Franciszek Przekop