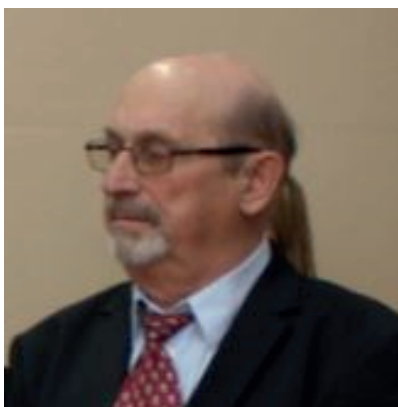


In memory of Professor Lech Zwierzchowski

On August 25, 2020, after 52 years of work at the Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Jastrzębiec, we bade farewell to Prof. PhD Lech Zwierzchowski.



The past half-century has been a period of scientific progress on an unprecedented scale. It was possible thanks to the involvement of scientists with the highest substantive competences, endowed with vision and imagination, who were ready to take on the challenges of the present and the future. At our Institute, such a scientist was undoubtedly Prof. Lech Zwierzchowski. As a long-time head of the Department of Molecular Biology, Director of the Institute for Scientific Research, member of the Scientific Council of the Institute, acting in many different scientific bodies, he contributed like no other at the Institute to the application of molecular strategies using new technologies in the animal breeding research. This new quality was present in his numerous research projects, in institute-wide projects with his participation,

and in scientific collaborations. With his participation, in the '90s of the last century, modern techniques of molecular biology began to be widely used at the Institute, which significantly contributed to the improvement of the level of scientific work. Many of the employees of the Institute owe him valuable substantive comments, which he provided during exhaustive discussions when editing scientific articles and grant applications.

*In 1997, the book entitled *Animal Biotechnology*, edited by the Professor, made its appearance. It turned out to be an extremely popular publication, which set the directions of research in the field of animal sciences for the near future and was a kind of anticipation of the reorientation of scientific research conducted at the Institute. The recent change of the name of the Institute to the Institute of Genetics and Animal Biotechnology is a symbolic crowning of the process.*

Professor treated the Institute as his second home. He used to spend all days and nights here. This time "after hours" was a time of many informal meetings, conversations with the employees of his Department, and with his doctoral students, whom he promoted over 20. An image of a man taking up not only professional topics, gifted with the ability of critical analysis and synthesis but also of a man of great intellectual and personal culture kept emerging from those meetings, as well. It is worth noting that he spent a lot of time observing the surrounding nature, whether during his horseback rides or walks with dogs through the meadows on the Utrata River and to the Młochowski Forest. He was able to talk about his natural observations in a surprisingly fascinating way. Therefore, he was not only a cool molecular biologist, but also a romantic naturalist.

During the funeral ceremonies, the Professor's sons placed a bag with soil from Jastrzębiec in his grave. It was a touching symbol of his attachment and emotional relationship to the Institute.

We say goodbye to you,

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