

In memory of Professor Adam Kołataj



What is a moment ...

*Sometimes it is like a blink of an eye, someone else would add a blue eye, that the Professor wrote so beautifully about in one of his books **Can we have children with blue eyes?***

Professor Adam Maciej Kołataj, PhD, DSc was born in Końskie on May 21, 1934 and died on May 12, 2022.

In 1954, as a student, he started working at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the Agricultural Academy in Lublin. Despite the unfavorable times, the Professor was lucky to work with outstanding, open minded and joyful people. In 1959, he joined the team of the Department of Human

Physiology at the Medical University of Lublin. At that time, the first publications on the influence of thiol groups appeared in prestigious international journals. In 1961, he obtained a PhD in agricultural sciences working at the Department of Animal Physiology at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. He began his pioneering work in the field of animal heterosis with the team of Professor Laura Kaufman.

He obtained his habilitation in 1967 at the Faculty of Animal Science of the Agricultural University in Kraków and was offered the position of the head of the newly created Department of Inheritance of Physiological Features of IGAB PAS in Jastrzębiec.

From 1968 he was permanently associated with the Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He created a thriving and developing team. The crowning achievement of these activities are numerous doctorates conducted under the supervision of the Professor.

In 1975 he was given the task of organizing the Institute of Biology of the Higher Pedagogical University in Kielce. After only two years of activity, he became the

director of the Institute and held this position until 1984, when he was appointed vice-rector of this University.

In the years 1988-1992, he became a representative of Poland at the International Biotechnology Laboratory in Nitra, Slovakia, while maintaining constant cooperation with numerous research centers and universities in Poland. At that time, he was appointed as a foreign member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

In 1992, for the first time in free elections, he was elected the Rector of the Higher Pedagogical University in Kielce.

His Magnificence Rector Professor Adam Maciej Kołtątaj for 2 terms of office, while holding this position, made a huge development of this university. His numerous international contacts with research centers from Japan, Switzerland, the United States, Germany and Slovakia open the door to the development of young researchers. It is thanks to the personal commitment of Professor Kołtątaj that not only the Kielce University, but also the academic circles of Krakow, Łódź, Gdańsk and Silesia, can boast of today excellent professors and researchers who are dynamically active.

In 1997, he became the head of the Doctoral Study at the Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The professor did not like stagnation. He was constantly looking for new stimuli. He wanted to build something all the time, to pass on knowledge. That is why he took an active part in the scientific life, taking up various functions in the Scientific Committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He promotes knowledge in the Universal Knowledge Society, creating a new university, Wszechnica Polska University of TWP in Warsaw, becoming its Rector. He helped in the development of many academic centers in Łódź, Bydgoszcz and Warsaw.

High professional competences and kindness towards all people resulted in the promotion of over 450 masters, 40 doctors, 15 of whom obtain the postdoctoral degree, becoming recognized professors of many universities and research institutes. The main research problems of the Professor were the physiological foundations of heterosis in animals, the genetic and physiological foundations of homeostasis and stress reactivity.

He was the author of 415 scientific publications, including 144 publications from the JCR list and many textbooks, incl.: *The discreet charm of the gene*, *Stress praise*, *Biological basis of heterosis*, *Physiological genetics of animals*. His scientific, organizational and didactic activity was appreciated by numerous national and foreign state awards, incl. *The Knight's Cross of Polonia Restituta*, *the Golden Cross of Merit*, *the Medal of National Education Commission*, *Medals of the University of Essen*, *the Institute of Animal Production in Nitra* and *the University of Life Sciences in Lublin* (AR in Lublin).

He gave his younger colleagues a lot of advice, to which slowly all of his pupils grow up and try to understand the surrounding world.

A world in which we will remember this Great Man remaining in our hearts.

Good way to the Stars, Professor! Adam Kołtątaj!

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