



LECH TADEUSZ DAWYDZIK, MD 1942–2004

Dr Lech Tadeusz Dawydzik died on 27 April 2004. The Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine lost, sooner than could have been expected, one of the most devoted members of its managerial staff.

Dr L.T. Dawydzik was born in Vilnius on 10 January 1942. He completed his medical studies at the Poznań Medical Academy in 1969. During the studies he was very much involved in the activities of the Polish Students' Association (ASP), first at the Medical Academy level and then in the Poznań ASP Regional Council, heading the Commission of Economy. In 1965, he was promoted to the position of the Secretary of the Commission of Economy at the ASP Supreme Council. At the 6th ASP Congress he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for a three-year term (1966–1969). After his term, he was holding, for four successive years, the position of Deputy Chairman of the ASP Chief Revision Commission.

After completing his studies, Dr Dawydzik joined the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, as the Head of the Division of Higher Medical Education, being then promoted to the position of the Deputy Director of the Department of Education and Science. Among his most significant accomplishments during his ministerial work, two should be particularly stressed, the development and implementation of the integrated, entrance test examination for medical academies and the incorporation of practical training in primary health care into the curriculum of medical studies.

In 1981, he left Warsaw for Łódź. Henceforth his activity over two decades was linked with the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in the capacity of a research worker. First, he headed the Division of Postgraduate Education and then the Department of Health Care Organization. In 1986, Dr Dawydzik defended his doctoral dissertation. Over some years he and his team programmed the process of the transformation of industrial health service. He was the author of the Occupational Health Service Act

adopted by Parliament in 1997, which crowned long lasting efforts of the whole team to ensure better protection of workers' health. In recognition of his achievements, Dr Dawydzik was honored by the reward granted by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare. The team headed by Dr Dawydzik also developed executive provisions to the Labour Code on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare. This contributed to the harmonization of the Polish legislation in this domain with the European Union directives. In 1999, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Nofer Institute.

Dr Dawydzik was the author of numerous national and international publications in the area of occupational medicine and work hygiene as well as the author and co-author of textbooks, including "Occupational Medicine in Medical Practice".

He was a member of scientific societies, among them the Polish Association of Occupational Medicine and the Polish Society of Public Health. From 1992 he acted as the Chairman of the Association for three consecutive terms. He was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit and the Chivalry Cross of the Order of the Rebirth of Poland. He was granted by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare three individual and two team awards. He was also granted a Golden medal by the Polish Students' Association and the H. Krahelska reward by the Chief Labor Inspector.

Dr Dawydzik was an active member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health*. Paying tribute to his accomplishments in this area we bid farewell to our much mourned colleague.

Editors