

My Way to International Ophthalmology

The academic and scientific carrier of Dr. Zagorski was presented on the background of the history of Poland from 966 till nowadays. Special attention was paid to the position of Polish nation to the communist and Soviet domination after the World War 2, resulting in Solidarity movement in 1980 and collapse of the communist party rule after 1989.

Dr Zagorski's carrier began in 1968 at the University Department in Lublin chaired by Professor Tadeusz Krwawicz. Scientific work started with human genetic and tissue culture methods and later concentrated on corneal endothelial proliferation (first evidence of human corneal endothelial cells in metaphase of the mitotic cycle, the age and species as factors of endothelial proliferation, studies of the endothelialization of the anterior chamber), first evidence of oxygen influence on the proliferation of ocular tissues in vitro, clarifying several aspects of the pathogenesis of epithelial ingrowth, ophthalmic pathology and, in recent years, on synthesis and significance of kynurenic acid in the eye.

The importance of international cooperation was stressed, which began in sixties and seventies when prominent ophthalmologists from all over the world visited Prof. Krwawicz in Lublin, and was continued during and after fellowships in Ghent (Prof. Francois) and Erlangen (prof. Naumann). Political changes and end of the Cold War facilitated these cooperation. Polish ophthalmology was outdated in the end of the communist rule, due to restriction of international cooperation after the Marshall Law was introduced in 1981. Dr Zagorski was an officer representing East European ophthalmologists in the Association for Eye Research, an organization affordable for young ophthalmologists. In 1991 he became chairman of the University Department in Lublin where he promoted visits of foreign and Polish specialist, organizing more than 40 courses and 6 international conferences. These greatly helped to improve the standards of care in his, as well as in other Polish hospitals. In 1994 he was elected member of the Advisory Committee of the International Council of Ophthalmology and in 2002 member of the Council. He collaborated in several projects on twinning, CME, residency programs, Vision for the Future and others, supplying the information and presenting the problems of ophthalmology of his area.