To be remembered

Bogumił Leon Kmieć (1944 - 2004)

Professor Bogumił Leon Kmieć, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., an outstanding member of the Polish Histochemical and Cytochemical Society, scientist and teacher, passed away a year ago, on July 20, 2004. He left his dear ones - his wife Krystyna and children Małgorzata and Krzysztof, and many friends, colleagues and students.

Professor Kmieć, "Bogus", as his friends used to call him, was born on May 18, 1944 in Radomsko, in a patriotic middle class family. After completing his primary and secondary education in Radomsko, in 1962 he started medical studies at the Medical University in Łódź, from which he graduated in 1968.

Already as a student he started research at the Department of Histology and Embryology; he was then Chairman of Students' Scientific Society and Chairman of Academic Board of the Polish Students Association. He was awarded a prize for the best graduate of the Medical University.

The entire professional curriculum of Professor Kmieć was associated with the Department of Histology and Embryology of the Medical University in Łódź, where he obtained a position of assistant after graduating from the Medical University. In 1977 he defended his Ph.D. thesis on "Morphochemical studies of adrenal medulla and the level of catecholamine in blood of guinea-pigs in experimental, acute anaphylactic shock". In 1989 he was awarded his D.Sc. in medical sciences on the basis of the dissertation on "Morphobiochemical studies on adrenaline secretion from adrenal medulla in guinea-pigs in experimental anaphylaxis". In 1993 he was nominated professor and in 2003 he obtained the post of full professor. Since 2000 he was the Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology.

Professor Bogumił Kmieć was the author of 175 publications, a promoter of Ph.D. theses, reviewer of many D.Sc. dissertations, M.A. and B.A. theses, research projects and handbooks, as well as scientific papers published in national and international journals. His research was mainly focused on histochemistry of the endocrine system, in particular the adrenal glands. He pioneered studies on the regeneration of adrenal medulla after its enucleation, developed his own method for detection of adrenaline and noradrenaline, and also conducted studies on paraadrenal brown adipose tissue.

Prof. Kmieć was an esteemed teacher, lecturing histology to medical and dental students. He also gave lectures and diploma classes of health pedagogy at the College of Humanities and Economics as well as lectures and diploma seminars at the School of Musicotherapy in the Musical Academy in Łódź.

He was active in many scientific societies and charity organisations, being, among the others, a vice-president of the Executive Board of the Polish Histochemical and Cytochemical Society, member of the Polish Anatomical Society, Polish Anatomopathological Society, Polish Allergological Society and others. He chaired the Ethics Commission of the Polish Society of Manual Medicine.

Professor Kmieć was an excellent scientist, teacher, and also a good and honest man. He generously helped many people. Hardly anybody knows that besides all the scientific activities, Bogumił Kmieć had one more passion - he wrote epigrams. His sense of humour was well known among his friends.

He has been and will be missed by many.

Jacek Danowski