



Andrzej Romaniuk (1931–2005)

With deep sorrow we announce the death of Professor Andrzej Romaniuk. From the very beginning of his scientific career he was associated with the University of Łódź where he became an architect of the neurophysiology department.

Professor Andrzej Romaniuk was born in 1931 in Stanisławów (present Ivano-Frankovsk in Ukraine), and World War II marked his youth. After the war Romaniuks' family moved to Łódź. He graduated from the Żeromski Secondary School (1945-1951). Thereafter he studied biology at the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, University of Łódź. In 1956 he received M.Sc. degree in animal physiology.

In 1955, being still a student, he began his adventure with science taking a position as an assistant in the Department of Animal Physiology at the University of Łódź. After public defence of his PhD. dissertation in 1960 he was granted the title of Doctor in Biology. Five years later he received the next scientific post-doctoral degree the D.Sc. in neurophysiology. He became an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Physiology in 1966. In 1975 the Council of State conferred a title of regular professor on him. In 1995 he was made Full Professor at the University of Łódź.

Professor Romaniuk spent 6 months on sabbatical leave in Professor Rojtbak's laboratory of the Institute of Physiology of the Georgian Academy of Sciences in Tbilisi and a few months in Professor Santa's laboratory at the T. Sevulescu Institute of Experimental Biology of the Romanian Academy of Science in Bucharest.

Professor Romaniuk was for many years head of the University of Łódź Department of Animal Physiology (1966–1981). From 1970 to 1973 he was vice-director of the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology, University of Łódź, and between 1973 and 1981 director of the Institute of Physiology and Cytology. Between 1978 and 1981 he was also a Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, University of Łódź. From 1988 until 2001 Professor Romaniuk was the head of the Department of Neurophysiology at our University. He retired in 2001 but remained a tutor at the Department until 2003.

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Professor Romaniuk was an active member of the Committee of Physiological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1978–1996) and vice-chairman of the Neurophysiological Commission of this Committee (1991–1996). From 1956 to 1990 he was a member of the Polish Physiological Society and from 1981 to 1986 chairman of the Łódź branch of this society. He was a member of the Polish Neuroscience Society from 1990. From 1984 to 1995 Professor Romaniuk was a member of the Scientific Council of the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology and from 1986 to 1991 he was vice-chairman of this Council.

Professor Romaniuk was always associated with the Department of Animal Physiology which was reorganized into the Department of Neurophysiology in 1988. In this Department he introduced a feline post-carbachol response as a model of emotional-defensive behavior. He also introduced the examination of monoaminergic neurotransmitter concentrations in emotional brain areas as a routine method of investigating emotions. His research focused on the neurophysiological and neurochemical basis of aggression and, more recently, of fear. He had a lifelong adventure with science, attempting to understand the role of serotonin in the regulation of emotions and interactions between the neurotransmitter systems responsible for the manifestation of emotions.

He stimulated his students to do scientific work. Professor Romaniuk supervised 13 Doctors and 115 Masters of Sciences. He was the author and co-author of several dozen original scientific papers, numerous abstracts and symposia presentations. He also wrote chapters for scientific books and articles popularizing neurophysiology.

For his scientific work he received several awards including the 2nd degree award of the Minister of Higher Education for special achievements in scientific research and for his post-doctoral dissertation in 1966. In 1990 the 2nd degree award was given to him by the Rector of the University of Łódź for articles about the role of serotonin in the regulation of emotional – defensive behaviour in the cat.

His sudden death on the July 12, 2005, is a great loss to science and to all his friends, students and co-workers.

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