

Announcement

Professor Bolesław Rutkowski's 70th birthday

Laudatio

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Abstract

On 5 December 2014 Professor Bolesław Rutkowski, the outstanding Polish nephrologist, doctor and researcher, renowned organizer, our teacher, colleague and friend, will celebrate his 70th birthday. We would like to take this opportunity to present to you his life and his scientific achievements.

Professor Bolesław Rutkowski was born into a family of intellectuals in Vilnius on 5 December 1944. Bolesław Rutkowski became a medical doctor in 1968 when he graduated from the Medical Academy of Gdańsk, the university with which all of his later professional carrier has been linked. His professional carrier started at the 2nd Department of Internal Medicine headed by Professor Jakub Penson, and then, in 1970, he went on to take a position at the Department of Renal Diseases headed by Professor Andrzej Manitius. During this period he obtained a PhD degree (1973) followed by habilitation (1983) and the title of professor in 1992. Most recently, in 2013, Bolesław Rutkowski received a degree *honoris causa* at the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Poland (Figure 1).

It was in 1992 that he took on his current position of the Head of the Department of Renal Diseases, which 5 years later, in 1997, was renamed, Department of Nephrology, Transplantology and Internal Medicine. During his clinical practice, Bolesław Rutkowski has specialized in internal medicine, nephrology, clinical transplantology and hypertension, the areas in which he has also supervised a few dozen specialization processes of his younger colleagues. Having been granted a scholarship at the 2nd Medical Department in Parma, he resided in Italy in 1976/77, and in 1987 he moved to England for a science internship at the Department of Physiology at the University of Birmingham.

Bolesław Rutkowski's main fields of interest include epidemiology of renal diseases, pathophysiology of carbohydrate and lipid metabolism in chronic renal disease, uraemic toxins, customization of renal replacement therapy, optimization of nephroprotective therapy and the history of nephrology. His research and scientific activity has

resulted in publication of over 800 works both in Polish and international medical journals. Moreover, Bolesław Rutkowski has been an editor or co-editor of >30 fundamental medical handbooks and as many as 107 chapters. The most prominent of these include the positions on renal replacement therapy for doctors, nurses, but also patients and their families. He has supervised a few dozen doctorates and several habilitation processes. Today, some of his students hold independent academic positions as university professors.

Bolesław Rutkowski has held a number of key positions at his home university, which include the position of the Prorector for Didactics and Student Affairs, a long-standing seat in the University Senate, Scientific Committee and University Development Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Budget and Finance Committee, the Chairperson of the Clinicians' Council at the Clinical Hospital. Twice, in 1992–99 and 2005–11 he was the Country Specialist in Nephrology and, in the meantime, he was also the Country Coordinator of Dialysis Treatment Improvement and Development Programme. This branch of professor's, as well as his predecessors' and co-workers' activities resulted in unrestricted and widespread availability of this treatment modality for patients with end-stage renal disease in Poland. For many years, Bolesław Rutkowski has been the President of the Central and Eastern European Advisory Board for Chronic Renal Failure and is also a former member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Renal Association Registry (Figure 2).

Bolesław Rutkowski is a member of many Polish and international scientific societies and associations including the Polish Society of Internal Medicine, the European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association,

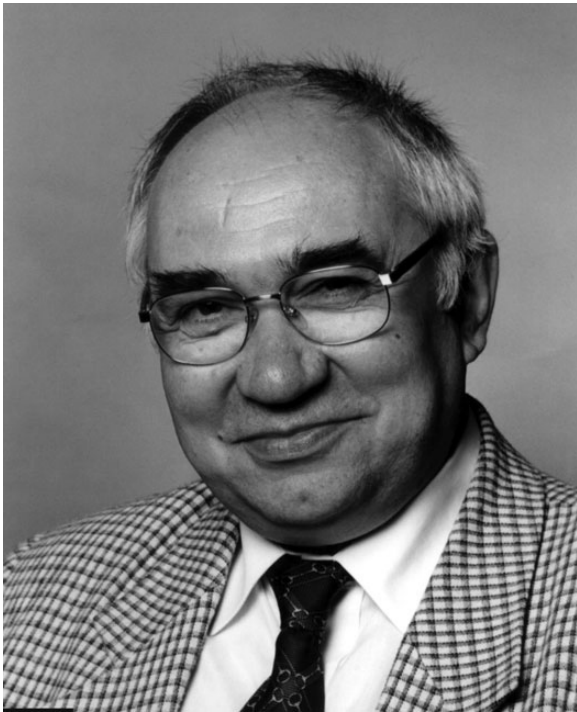


Fig. 1. Professor Bolesław Rutkowski.



Fig. 2. Professor Bolesław Rutkowski at work.

the International Society of Nephrology, the American Society of Nephrology, the European Society for Artificial Organs and the International Society for Renal Metabolism and Nutrition. In some others he used to hold the position of president: the Polish Society of Nephrology, the International Society of Uraemia Research and Toxicity and the International Association for History of Nephrology. At present, he is the President of the Polish Transplantation Society. Moreover, he is a member of editorial boards of both Polish and foreign medical journals such as: *Przegląd Lekarski* (Doctors' Review), *Nefrologia i Dializoterapia Polska* (Polish Nephrology and Dialysis Treatment), *Polskie Archiwum Medycyny Wewnętrznej* (Polish Archives of Internal Medicine), *Medical Science Monitor*, *Mineral and Electrolyte Metabolism*, *Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation* (subject editor) and *Kidney and Blood Pressure Research*.



Fig. 3. Professor Bolesław Rutkowski receiving the Distinguished Fellow of ERA-EDTA Diploma from Professor Andrzej Więcek (currently ERA-EDTA President).

Additionally, he holds the position of the Editor-in-Chief of the self-established Forum of Nephrology (2008) and he is a member of the Clinical Pathophysiology Committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Bolesław Rutkowski has also been known for his organizational achievements. Not only does he organize annual post-ASN conferences in Gdańsk but he has also been involved in the preparation of numerous Polish and international conferences and congresses such as the Baltic Meeting on Nephrology in Poland, Lithuania and Russia, Congresses of the International Association for History of Nephrology in Gdańsk and Toruń and the Congress of the International Society of Uraemia Research and Toxicity in Gdańsk.

His widely appreciated scientific and organizational activity has won him many awards and honours. In Poland they include the following: 'For Outstanding Achievements in Healthcare' (2002), a Medal of the Commission of National Education (2004), the Statue of Hippocrates by the Polish Family Medicine Society (2004), 'Johannes Hevelius Scientific Award' (2005), the Centenary Medal by the Polish Society of Internal Medicine (2006), 'Pro Transplantationibus Fovendis', the 'Golden Otis Trust Award' (2009), the Honorary Membership of the Polish Society of Nephrology (2013) and most recently – the Saint Camillus Award (2014). Some international awards and honours include 'Distinguished Medal of the National Kidney Foundation' (2004), the Vilnius University Medal in Lithuania (2005), the Messina University Medal in Italy (2008), the Honorary Membership of the Romanian Society of Nephrology (2010), 'International Society of Uremia Research and Toxicity – Niwa Award' (2011), Distinguished Fellow of ERA-EDTA (2013). Bolesław Rutkowski has also been honoured with numerous state decorations: the Silver Cross of Merit, the Knight's and Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, Decoration for Merit to Gdańsk and others (Figure 3).

Medicine, however, is not the professor's only activity as he has a wide scope of interests and hobbies such as collecting old maps, art or classical music. He is also into sports with swimming being his all-time favourite. Moreover, he is an established wine, whisky and cigar connoisseur. In all his activities, Professor enjoys the support from his wife, Krystyna, a dentist. The Rutkowskis have two sons, one of whom, Przemysław, is following in his father's footsteps. Professor Rutkowski is one of Poland's most

outstanding nephrologists enjoying great respect and authority not only in the country but also on the international stage. Last but not least, he also enjoys friendship with many of us. He is well-liked and respected for his kindness and support that he offers to his friends, colleagues and patients in difficult moments. Despite the long list of his

achievements, Professor Rutkowski still faces many challenges and goals both in professional and private domain. Thus, we wish you, Professor and Friend, many fruitful years of professional and private activity.

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