

## POZNAŃ CANCER CENTRE 1953-2003

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### SUMMARY

In 1952 in Poland an anticancer programme was developed, which as a result led to the establishment of a Cancer Centre in Poznań. The first organisational efforts were supervised by Dr. Czesław Wojnerowicz. In March 1952 it was decided that the Social Security Hospital in Poznań in Garbary Street would be transformed into one intended for oncological medical services. By the end of 1953 three wards (surgery, gynaecology and general) with a total of 100 beds were set up. Dr Stefan Skowroński was appointed the first head of the Centre (1953-1975), followed by Professor Cezary Ramlau (1975-1989), Dr. Alexander Górny (1989-1995) and since 1995 Associate Professor Julian Malicki.

In March 1975 as a consequence of the administrative reform in Poland the additional aim of the Centre was to integrate and develop oncological medical services over the whole region comprising the following voivodships: Poznań, Kalisz, Konin, Leszno and Piła. In the 1980s the oncological hospital was again rebuilt and the number of beds enlarged to 250. In 2000 construction on a new section of the hospital was started to be completed by 2005.

Over its whole past history Cancer Centre in Poznań in conjunction with the regional health services, hospitals of the Medical University and other hospitals, has been carrying out teaching at the graduate and postgraduate level as well as doing research in addition to treatment and diagnosis of cancer diseases.

At present at the Poznań Cancer Centre with its 7 hospital wards such as Oncological Surgery I and II, General Radiotherapy I and II, Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy and Gynaecological Oncology as well as Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, a total of 11.000 patients are treated, 120.000 patients are seen in consulting rooms, 4.000 patients are treated by radiation, 3.500 major surgical operations and 1.600 one-day smaller surgeries are performed annually.

**Key words:** oncology, Poznań Cancer Centre, radiotherapy.

In the early twenties of the last century researchers became interested in the use of ionizing radiation in the treatment of cancer. This was a direct result of the discovery of radioactivity and the invention of techniques of producing very short-wave electromagnetic radiation later to be called X-rays (Roentgen rays). The discovery of radium by Maria Skłodowska-Curie and her husband Pierre was a milestone in the development of medical application of radioisotopes, since it was radium which proved to be one of the isotopes with the longest use in medicine. On the initiative and patronage of Maria Skłodowska-Curie a Radium Institute was founded in Warsaw in the 1930s in the then independent Poland. The Institute gave birth to Polish Oncology. Between the two World Wars a number of hospitals and

the Department of the Medical Faculty of Poznań University became engaged in the treatment of cancer. Two professors of medicine responsible for the introduction of modern oncological treatment and organisation of oncological work, Karol Mayer and Antoni Jurasz junior, should be given special consideration in this respect. They provided the foundation for radiotherapy and also took steps to establish a Radium Institute in Poznań. Professor Mayer's radiology department pioneered new irradiation methods and techniques. Professor Jurasz's surgery department opened a radium ward, which used both an X-ray machine for deep therapy and 144 mg of radium. Dr. Stanisław Bylina was responsible for irradiations, whereas dr. Tadeusz Alkiewicz was in charge of radium treatment.

During the Second World War and the Nazi occupation of Poland research was almost totally halted, and medical treatment of cancer severely limited. The reconstruction of oncological services after the war was especially difficult due to the destruction of hospitals and the lack of qualified staff. In 1947 the Radium Institute in Warsaw was brought to life and two similar institutes were founded in Gliwice and Cracow.

What may be regarded as a major achievement of that period was a more widespread general understanding of an interdisciplinary approach to cancer therapy making use of the latest developments in surgery, radiotherapy, histopathology and basic sciences, mostly physics and radiobiology to be later supplemented with chemotherapy.

The knowledge gained at that time of the methods used in cancer therapy indicated that the efficacy of the treatment was mainly dependent on early diagnosis and the immediate application of suitable treatment. What was also noted was a constant rise in the number of cancer cases ending in death. All these facts contributed to the decision of developing a network of independent specialized oncological centres. In 1952 a committee was set up with one of its aims being gradual establishment of a series of nationwide regional oncological centres, its chairman being Professor Tadeusz Koszarowski of the Warsaw Institute of Oncology (previously: the Radium Institute). Following this idea a Cancer (Oncological) Centre was set up in Poznań in 1953. The persons in charge of organizing this centre were Czesław Wojnerowicz, a surgeon, helped by radiation oncologists Irena and Stefan Skowroński at a later stage. Dr. (later Professor) Wojnerowicz spent three years at the Radium Institute in Warsaw during World War II. After the war he returned to Poznań to work at the Surgery Department of the Medical Faculty of Poznań University. In March 1952 an administrative decision was taken to dedicate the building hosting the Social Security Hospital in Poznań (15 Raczyński street, now 15 Garbary street) to oncological purposes. However, the adaptation of the hospital to one dedicated to cancer diagnosis

and therapy was fraught with difficulties. In the general opinion cancer treatment was not effective and the need for the establishment of a specialized unit was placed in doubt. However, as early as December 1, 1952 Dr. Wojnerowicz was appointed by the regional (vojevodship) administration authorities as the first full-time employee of the Regional (vojevodship) Centre.



Fig. 1. First surgery in the newly constructed built operation room. In the front: professor Czesław Wojnerowicz, dr. Henryk Szulc.



Fig. 2. Clinical Team. Starting from the left: dr. Lucjan Przybora, dr. Janina Gumowska-Przybora, dr. Irena Skowrońska -second from the right.

In January 1953, dr. Stefan Skowroński became general manager of the Centre (Hospital) and head of the Gynaecology Department. Dr. C. Wojnerowicz was in charge of the Surgery Department, whereas dr. Irena Skowrońska headed the General Department, dr. Lucjan Przybora was in charge of the Pathology Department and dr. Janina Gumowska-Przybora was responsible for the Outpatient Clinic.

Dr. Stefan Skowroński graduated from the Medical Faculty of Warsaw University

in 1946. In 1947 he took up his job at the Radiotherapy Department of the Radium Institute in Warsaw, which he had to leave during World War II. He got his Ph.D. degree in 1952 at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Gdańsk. In 1954 he received the diploma of specialist in general oncology, while in 1958 he was granted a certificate of a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree specialist in radiotherapy. From 1960 he became a regional specialist in oncology in the Wielkopolska region. Until March 1975, that is when the Regional Oncological Centre was reorganized, Dr. Skowroński was also in charge of this Centre and until December 1983, when he retired, he also ran the Gynaecology Department. Afterwards he returned to Warsaw to work at a municipal oncological outpatient clinic. He died in 1988.

The establishment of the Poznań Oncological Centre owed much also to Associate Professor Lucjan Przybora who was responsible for setting up a histopathology laboratory and participated in teaching oncology to hospital and outpatient clinic doctors. He pioneered clinical oncological histopathology and cytogynaecologic studies in the Wielkopolska region. His everyday practice involved dealing with a variety of microscopic pictures of the same type of a disease characterized, however, by different clinical symptoms and outcome. In this way he was well aware of the need to combine various therapeutic methods and techniques. Cooperation with pathologists and clinicians of the Poznań Medical University resulted in the development of oncological morphological sampling techniques in histopathological examinations to be commonly applied in oncology.

Oncological diagnosis and therapy centres were set up by dr. Janina Gumowska-Przybora who, since 1953 was in charge of both the Regional (voyevodship) Oncological Consultation Centre and an Outpatient Oncological Centre. The former institution was initially headed by dr. S. Skowroński, whereas dr. Czesław Wojnerowicz was the oncologist surgeon at the Centre. Since 1958 the Regional Oncological Consultation Centre has found its permanent location in Słowacki street, which had an important impact on the development of the Regional Oncological Centre as it

made it possible to increase the total number of beds available to 120. In 1959 a Municipal Oncological Consultation Centre, headed by dr. Cezary Ramlau, was opened in Chudoba street.



Fig. 3. The Clinical Team consisted of: professor Czesław Wojnerowicz, dr Henryk Szulc, Associate Professor Lucjan Przybora.

In 1962 another Municipal Oncological Consultation Centre (Head: dr. Aniela Pater) was set up in Kórnicka street. In the 1960s the Regional Oncological Hospital and the Regional Oncological Out-patient Centre were allowed to have separate „oncological beds” in smaller hospitals in Pniewy, Poniec, Śmigiel and Opalenica. Only severe cancer cases were referred to these hospitals by oncological hospitals or other out-patient centres. These patients were periodically seen by oncologists from Poznań.

When dr. Stefan Skowroński was in charge, the hospital in Poznań was greatly enlarged: in 1953 it only had 30 beds located in a building which in 1954 was adapted into a modern 100-bed centre including departments of General Oncology, Oncological Gynaecology, Oncological Surgery and Histopathological and Analytical Laboratories as well as rooms for radiotherapy.

In addition to developing the center and its therapeutic activities the hospital was entrusted with the development and popularisation of oncological diagnosis and therapy throughout the whole Wielkopolska region. What was needed to realise these objectives was to develop and implement an organisational scheme, train specialists and sufficiently enlarge the hospital facilities and provide the neces-

ssary equipment. Along with clinical and administrative activities dr. Stefan Skowroński carried out a programme of training for oncologists and technical staff by maintaining close ties between the Poznań Centre and the Institute of Oncology in Warsaw.

In December 1954 the oncologists in Poznań held the 7<sup>th</sup> Anticancer Congress devoted to pre-cancer studies and early forms of cancer. In addition to the representatives of the medical profession the Congress was attended by some invited guests and even ordinary citizens of Poznań. The Congress played an important role in making the need of early detection of cancer diseases better known and more widespread. It was also one of the first oncological congresses to be repeatedly held in Poznań.

In 1958-59 the Radiotherapy Department (Head: Associate Professor Irena Skowrońska) was greatly enlarged and was provided with four X-ray machines for deep therapy and one machine for superficial therapy. The radium rooms were equipped with unique shielding facilities to protect the staff from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. In dr. Skowrońska's department tele- and brachytherapy were applied using standard protection measures and facilities. An Oncological Surgery Department was set up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the hospital building and separate modern operation suits were built. The Surgical Outpatient Consultation Centre provided general services, carried out follow-up examinations and preliminary diagnosis for cancer diseases as well as performed minor surgical procedures.

The people establishing and running the Poznań Cancer Centre operated under the conditions of a shortage of ways and means, typical for the postwar period. Gradually a team of specialists was created who not only were responsible for the organisational work, but also attempted to use the methods and techniques of combined treatment of cancer diseases. Generally, more widespread knowledge of cancer both in diagnosis and treatment was made possible when the oncological hospital started operation. The typical feature of this hospital's work, from its beginnings, was interdisciplinary

and teamwork clinical practice based on solid foundations of modern surgery, radiotherapy and histopathology. From the very outset the radiotherapists received strong support from medical physicists whose job was to calculate therapeutic doses and ensure protection of the staff from ionizing radiation. In 1962-68 the Physics Laboratory was headed by Krzysztof Jach, M.Sc. and later (1968-1990) by Krystyna Prządka, M.Sc. Chemotherapy and immunotherapy were added to cancer therapy at a later stage. Surgical and radiological treatment supplemented with systemic chemotherapy provided the basis for combined treatment.

In 1966 work was started on erecting a separate building to house a new machine, Gammatron 3, intended for radiotherapy. It took three years to bring the construction to completion.

In 1975 the Outpatient Centre took over from two district Consultation Centres in Chudoba street (1959) and Kórnicka street (1962). The Outpatient Centre had several offices, those of general oncology, gynaecology, surgery as well as histopathological and cytological laboratories employing specialists in oncology who saw patients from the whole region (voyevodship), their main aim being early detection of cancer and care of incurable patients.



Fig. 4. The Poznań Cancer Centre, The Main Entrance Garbary Street.

In 1975, following the new administration system in Poland, the Cancer Centre in Poznań was entrusted with the coordination of oncological health service in the newly created regions (voyevod-

ships) of Poznań, Kalisz, Konin, Leszno and Piła. In addition, patients from some other neighbouring regions such as Zielona Góra, Bydgoszcz and Gorzów were also referred to the Centre. At that time the workers of the Poznań Centre such as Irena Sobocińska M.D., Aniela Pater, M.D., Anna Wachowiak, M.D., Zdzisław Kycler, M.D. and Cezary Ramlau, M.D. were employed as consultants for the following regions: Kalisz, Konin, Leszno, Piła and Koszalin, respectively.

In each of the regional (voivodship) capitals a Regional Consultation centre was created. In addition to that in Poznań two municipal oncological consultation centres were set up in the districts of Grunwald i Jeżyce. The person in charge of these two centres was Cezary Ramlau, M.D. who started his work in 1975 by ensuring cooperation with the Medical University in training medical students and nurses. Lectures and classes were also held for the students of the post Secondary Medical School in the faculty of Electroradiology. As a result, young medical technicians fully qualified were able to find jobs in health services. From 1975 till her retirement, Ms. Łucja Morze, was a deputy economic and maintenance manager, and the job of a head nurse was fulfilled in turn by Ms. Janina Hirsch (1975-80), Ms. Maria Smolińska (1981-84), Ms. Lidia Rakoczy-Sorówka (1984-87) and Ms. Krystyna Walcowski (1986-89).



Fig. 5. Farewell of dr Aniela Pater - the Head of Gynecological Oncology Ward. Starting from the left: dr Barbara Cerkaska-Głuszak, dr Jerzy Załuski, dr Zdzisław Kycler, Barbara Krysztofiak, Krystyna Herwichowska, M.Sc, Alina Jarmułowicz, M.Sc.

In 1975-1996 the Radiotherapy Department was headed by B. Cerkaska-Głuszak, M.D, Ph.D. who was also a regional specialist in oncology in the Poznań region. In addition, she was a member of the oncological team at the Haematology Institute of Poznań Medical University and ran courses and lectures in radiotherapy at the Faculty of Medicine in Poznań. At the same time new machines for radiotherapy were purchased, such as a linear accelerator, the second cobalt Unit and a simulator. In 1988 the Radiotherapy Department was tied to the 20-bed hospital ward and in 1990 additionally to an 18-bed ward of less severe case localized in Łąkowa street. All this required that the medical staff be increased by another ten doctors and the technical staff by twenty persons. In 1975 the Gynaecological Department was equipped with an after-loading unit, and the Physics Laboratory by a new dosimetric apparatus. The Regional Oncological Outpatient Centre still in Słowacki street was again made an organisational unit with the hospital, whereas since 1957 another Oncological Consultation Centre in the district of Grunwald started operation due to which a larger number of patients had access to specialist consultation services. When dr. Irena Skowrońska and dr. Stefan Skowroński retired in 1984 and 1983, respectively, dr. Aniela Pater, became in charge of the Gynaecological Department and dr. Anna Wachowiak became head of the General Oncological Department. In 1987 the Regional Oncological Outpatient Centre was transformed into an centre responsible for patients referred to it from other outpatient centres or other patients. The latter centre was headed by dr. Janina Gumowska-Przybora who carried out annual preventive examinations and provided consultations for patients from other hospitals.

In 1978, that is on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Cancer Centre in Poznań a special meeting was held to assess the achievements in the oncological health services in the Wielkopolska region. At the turn of the 1970s and 1980s the Poznań Cancer Centre employed 46 doctors, including 14 radiotherapists, four oncological surgeons and two general surgery specialists. In addition, six other

medical specialists, 18 employees with university education, 62 nurses, 33 technicians and 106 members of the auxiliary staff were also employed.

Throughout the whole period of its activity the Oncological Hospital in Poznań, in cooperation the local health services, departments of the Medical University and other hospitals carried out diagnosis and therapy of cancer diseases. In the the first 25 years of its operation some 540 thousand patients were examined and more than 53 thousand were treated (39 thousand in hospitals and 14 thousand on an outpatient basis). Some 26 thousand operations were performed and more than one million radiation treatments were carried out. Radium irradiations were applied to more than 13 thousand patients.

At the same time, in the framework of the Oncological Combined Oncological Health Service in the Medical University a Health Subservice was formed for problems involving Immunology and Cancer Therapy. Specialist training was carried out in radiotherapy, oncological surgery and postgraduate training for general practitioners and doctors of other specialties. In 1976 dr. Cezary Ramlau, together with Professor Simm set up an Oncological Clinic later transformed into the Oncology Chair of the Medical University located at 1-2 Łąkowa street in Poznań. Professor Jan Brębowicz became its first head i and he has been in charge until now. The Chair includes: Oncological Clinic, Palliative Care Clinic and Intensive Care, Department of Cancer Pathology, Department of Medical Analytical Procedures, Radiology Laboratory and Combined Consultation Centres. In October of 2001, conferences were held to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oncology Clinic of the Medical University, its main subject being monoclonal antibodies in oncology.

In July 1978, on the initiative of doctors and administrative officials of Poznań and the Poznań Region (vojevodship) a Social Committee for the Anticancer Action, first of its kind in Poland, was set up, its main objective being to obtain financial means to enlarge the Oncological Hospital and intensify preventive cancer campaign over the whole region. The importance of the diagnosis of precancer conditions, early

forms of malignant cancer diseases as well as the result of treatment were conducive to taking decision to enlarge the material basis of the hospital. The latter action was brought to completion in 1988 and made it possible to increase the number of beds to 250. In the new facility one floor was exclusively dedicated to setting up several laboratories for histopathology, medical analytic methods, microbiology and tissue culture studies to assess the sensitivity to cytostatic drugs used in chemotherapy. Until 1992, Eugeniusz Simon, M.D. was in charge of the histopathology and the whole diagnostic section, whereas Alina Jamułowicz, M.Sc headed (until 1991) other laboratories. Elżbieta Knapowska, M.D., Ph.D. until she retired in 2002, was in charge of the Bacteriology Laboratory. In 1984 Aniela Pater, M.D., Ph.D. became chief of the Gynaecology Radiotherapy Department.



Fig. 6. The Gynecological Radiotherapy ward. Starting from the left: Irena Graczyk, Janina Krupka, dr Aniela Pater, Bogusława Utracka, Urszula Głęboczyk

As the hospital became bigger this Department had more beds added to it, and in 1986 it was one of the first places in Poland to install a selectron for afterloading, which made it possible to increase the protection of the staff and more accurate dose planning in the irradiated area. Radium was still used in brachytherapy. At the same time in the above Department therapy using cytostatic drugs was introduced until a separate Section of Chemotherapy was established in 1990. Due to the larger

number of surgical beds two oncological surgery departments were established which greatly helped to enlarge the procedures of the surgery of the abdominal cavity, chest and reconstruction procedures. The area of surgical activities was thus extended and working conditions for the staff were improved. Each department had a separate operation block with two treatment rooms and adequate back-up. In 1988 Professor Czesław Wojnarowicz retired but still remained as a consultant. Associate Professor (later Full Professor) Paweł Murawa became chief of the 1<sup>st</sup> Surgery Department, and Zdzisław Kycyler, M.D., Ph.D. became head of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Surgery Department until he retired in 1994.



Fig. 7. Professor Paweł Murawa (1<sup>st</sup> row in the middle) and physicians from 1<sup>st</sup> Oncological Surgery Ward.

In the readapted rooms of the hospital outpatient clinics an operating theatre was built with the aim of performing minor surgical and diagnostic procedures which did not require hospitalisation. As an effect of the enlarged hospital and of the increased number of surgical beds in 1990 a Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Unit had been added headed until now by Józef Mazurek, M.D., Ph.D. This department, equipped with the state-of-the art apparatus provided service not only to patient after major operations but also to those who required intensive care. A Subunit for Chemotherapy was also set up, which was later transformed into a 34-bed Chemotherapy

Department headed since 1990 by Jerzy Załuski, M.D., Ph.D. The surgical outpatient unit included two separate consultation rooms, one for each Department, and an operating suite to carry out some 3500 operation annually.

The years 1989 and 1990 saw great changes and transformation not only in the Polish health services but also in the whole country. New technology started to be introduced in hospitals. The ever larger number of doctors had their training in the best medical centres in Western Europe. The fast exchange of information and experience together with modern medical equipment have led to higher standards in health services and better results of treatment. In 1989 the Cancer Center in Poznań had a new chief, Alexander Górnny, M.D., Ph.D. who remained in charge until his death in 1995. Grażyna Stryczyńska, M.D. Ph.D. became deputy chief for diagnosis and therapy, whereas Małgorzata Kołodziej-Sarna, M.A was appointed and is still in the position of administration manager for economic and maintenance affairs. Maria Smolińska became the head nurse in 1990 until she retired in 2003. Then her duties were taken over by Zofia Cwalina, M.A.

Since 1990 over thirty persons received doctoral degree in medical sciences and three persons became Associate Professors. The Radiotherapy Department was renovated and the Radiology Department was equipped with state-of the art units for diagnosis. Among other things, a tomograph was purchased, which with other machines was able to carry out a whole spectrum of radiological diagnosis (conventional and tomographic), oncological ultrasonography and other procedures such as thinneedle biopsy controlled ultrasonographically or tomographically. The Physics Department obtained modern dosimetric units and a computerised system of treatment planning. Its activity focused on clinical dosimetry, radiation treatment planning and radiological protection. Julian Malicki, Ph.D. became in charge of The Physics Department in 1990, whereas Danuta Bręborowicz, M.D., Ph.D. took charge of the Histopathology Laboratory in 1992 and Krystyna Herwichowska, M.Sc. (until the end of 2001) headed

the Laboratory of Diagnostic Procedures. In 1994 the chief of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oncological Surgery was Marek Teresiak, M.D., Ph.D. whereas Maria Kubaszewska M.D., Ph.D. took over the responsibilities of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Radiotherapy Department. Since 1994 Andrzej Roszak, M.D., Ph.D. has been in charge of the Gynaecological Radiotherapy Department (when dr. Aniela Pater retired). In 1997 radium treatment was no longer used. In 2000, a complex treatment combined with surgical procedures was started in the Department. Since 2002 the Diagnostic Laboratory has been headed by Ewa Leporowska, M.Sc., while the Microbiology Laboratory's chief is Zefiryn Cybulski, M.D., Ph.D.

To intensify research activities in cooperation with the Medical University in 1991 a Section of Diagnosis and Cancer Immunology was established. Professor Andrzej Mackiewicz's team has been carrying out studies on the genetically modified vaccine against malignant melanoma. The Poznań Cancer Centre has intensified a wide educational programme for doctors, specialists, among other things, in oncological surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The knowledge of cancer diseases and of prophylactic activities has been made better known. Due to the cooperation with the World Bank a Wielkopolska Consortium was set up, which made it possible to obtain the necessary state-of-the art equipment for the Departments of Radiotherapy and Radiology.

In 1995, Julian Malicki, Ph.D. became head of the Poznań Cancer Centre, whereas the responsibilities of the deputy director for diagnosis and treatment were taken over in 1997 by dr. Jerzy Załuski. A computerisation programme was initiated for the hospital, to become fully operational till 2002. The Poznań Cancer Centre, as one of the few referential centres in Poland, was included in the central programme of providing additional investment in radiotherapy equipment. The implementation of modern radiation therapy was the main driving force of gradual investment for the Radiotherapy Department of the most modern set of suitable apparatus such as five megavoltage machines, two simulators, several treatment planning systems, and LDR, HDR and PDR brachy-

therapy units. In 1996, the Radiotherapy Department had a new chief: dr. Grażyna Stryczyńska, and in 1996 the Radiology Department became the charge of dr. Ewa Sibilska.



Fig. 8. 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Poznań Cancer Centre. Starting from left: professor Cezary Ramlau – past director, dr Julian Malicki- present director.

In 1999, the system of financing the health services in Poland underwent serious transformation. In place of that based on money provided directly by the government, regional so-called Sick Funds were set up, which signed contracts with providers for the benefit of the insured. This transformation constituted a great challenge since it made it necessary to introduce new economic standards and requirements and to increase the quality of health care. In 2001 the Chief Accountant, Ms Marianna Byczyńska, who had worked at the Centre since 1975, retired and her duties were taken over by Mirella Śmięgińska, M.Sc. The Section of Organisation and Control has been headed for many years by Anna Załuska, M.Sc and since 1999 has been headed by Agnieszka Dyzmann-Sroka M.Sc. In 1996 the Personnel Section had a new chief: Mirosława Kowalczyk, M.Sc.

The main objective of the Poznań Cancer Center is therapy, diagnosis and popularization of the principles of early detection of cancer. In the latter respect annual screening examinations are made in some selected groups of the Wielkopolska population, financed by the Ministry of Health and the Sick Funds. At present the Poz-



nań Cancer Center is among the largest oncological centres in this country. In 1999, due to money obtained from the government budget the Center began to be enlarged, which will take a year or so to completion. The patients will receive better and easier access to diagnosis and a wider spectrum of anticancer therapy. The newly built wing will house nuclear medicine, brachytherapy, a modern operation suite, laboratory and diagnostic rooms.



Fig. 9. View to the Cancer Centre from Strzelecka Street. In the front - Old Store House of Cegielski factory - in restoration. New wing of the hospital to be completed in 2005 - behind.



Fig. 10. Poznań Cancer Centre, The Main Entrance Gargary Street.

At present two surgery department perform more than 3,5 thousand operations annually, and radiation therapy is applied to another 4,0 thousand patients, the number of consultations being as high as 120 thousand per year. The Centre has 278 beds, and employs 139 personnel with university education, including 96 physicians. The auxiliary staff includes 178 nurses, 74 technicians and 48 administration workers. There are 22 radiation oncologists, 20 oncological surgeons, 4 general surgeons, 11 anaesthesiologists and specialists in intensive care, 9 medical oncologists and 5 radiologists. Thirty-three persons have a Doctor of Medicine degree, two are Associate Professors and five are Full Professors. In addition to diagnosis and treatment activities the Centre carries out research in total body irradiation before bone marrow transplantations, genetic studies as well as studies on the anticancer vaccine. In 1997 the application of radium was ceased and safe use of radioisotopes was introduced. The Poznań Cancer Centre is also entrusted with the task of running courses for the students of the University School of Medicine and School of Physics.

The Centre houses editorial staff of two scientific journals: „Reports of Practical Oncology and Radiotherapy” (Editor-in-chief: Associate Professor Julian Malicki) and „Współczesna Onkologia” (Contemporary Oncology) (Editor-in-Chief: Professor Andrzej Mackiewicz). Since 1995 every two years international oncological conferences are held.

The Number of Procedures and Consultations (in thousands) performed in 1976, 1990 and 2001, is presented in *Table 1*.

In 1998 the Centre celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation, in which government officials and invited foreign guests took part. The celebrations were held together with an international oncological conference.

The Radiology Department and the Hospital have participated in the establishment and implementation of a modern quality assurance system in agreement with the ISO standards. The Centre has been awarded an ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Certificate in radiation treatment, issued by Lloyd's Register Assurance, which is the best proof of the high standard of its services.

Table 1. The number of Procedures and Consultations (in thousands) performed in 1976, 1990 and 2001.

Type of procedure/Year	1976	1990	2001
Consultations	40.9	110.8	118.0
In-patients treated	1.8	5.4	9.8
Procedures	4.6	3.7	9.7
Histopathological examinations	7.6	14.9	30.7
Patients treated with radiation	1.4	2.3	3.2
Consultations	40.9	110.8	118.0

The widely-known daily „Rzeczpospolita” has employed a company „Medical Rating” to take a survey of the standard of services available in public and non-public hospitals in Poland. In the list of the 100 best hospitals published in this daily on June 24, 2002 the Poznań Cancer Centre was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> place. In nationwide surveys run by the weekly „News-week” the Centre took the second and

third place, whereas in a similar survey conducted by the weekly „Wprost” it was awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> place among all the oncological hospitals. In the list prepared by „Puls Biznesu” of all the enterprises the Poznań Cancer Centre was listed in the high 456<sup>th</sup> place, and was named the 'Gazelle of Business'.



Fig. 11. The 9<sup>th</sup> Place in the Domestic Ranking of Hospitals. Directors and Representatives, starting from the left: Urszula Jezewska - 4<sup>th</sup> University Hospital in Poznań (7<sup>th</sup> position), Tomasz Opala – University Gyneacology Hospital in Poznań (6<sup>th</sup> position), Stanisław Góźdź - Świętokrzyskie Cancer Centre in Kielce (4<sup>th</sup> position), Bogusław Maciejewski - Oncology Institute in Gliwice (3<sup>rd</sup> position), Zdzisław Zachwieja - president of Medical Rating, Zbigniew Religa - Institute of Cardiology (1<sup>st</sup> position), Maciej Łukasiewicz - editor of the daily "Rzeczpospolita", Marian Przylepa - 4<sup>th</sup> University Hospital in Lublin (10<sup>th</sup> position), Krzysztof Bederski - Hospital in Krakow (5<sup>th</sup> position), Małgorzata Kołodziej-Sarna - Poznań Cancer Centre (9<sup>th</sup> position), Marian Zembala - Silesian Heart Centre and Hospital (2<sup>nd</sup> position).

On April 19, 2002 at the Runge Collegium Professor Czesław Wojnerowicz, one of the founders of the Centre for Oncology in Poznań, celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his M.D. Diploma and the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of professional work.



Fig. 12. 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of MD Graduation. Starting from the left: dr Jerzy Załuski, Małgorzata Kołodziej-Sarna M.Sc, associate professor Julian Malicki, professor Czesław Wojnerowicz.

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