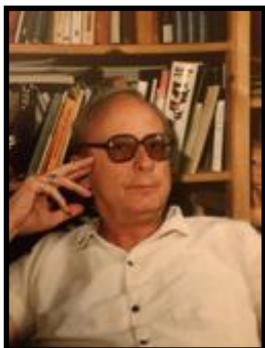


OBITUARY: OSKAR ADOLF CHOMICKI (IOMP PRESIDENT 2000-2003)



(20.05.1931-25.10.2018)

Prof. Dr Oskar Adolf Chomicki was a fundamental figure in international medical physics. He was the first Eastern-European medical physicist to be elected President of the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP). He was especially known for supporting the professional development in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC, aka Developing countries).

Prof. Chomicki graduated in 1949 secondary school Staszic's in Warsaw. Following this he did his MSc diploma at the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics, University of Warsaw, Poland. He started his career at the Institute of Experimental Physics, University of Warsaw (1952-1957). Later he established the Radioisotope Laboratory and was senior lecturer at the Bielanski Hospital in Warsaw and at the Postgraduate Medical Education Center in Warsaw.

Prof. Chomicki was one of the creators of the Polish Society of Medical Physics (PSMP) and for many years was Secretary of the General Board of the PSMP. He was also Member of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). From 1991 he worked for the IOMP, initially Editing the IOMP Bulletin for Developing Countries (at that time an activity of the IOMP Developing Countries Committee, which was renamed in 1997 to Professional Relations Committee).

In 1997 Prof. Chomicki was elected President of IOMP, a position he took in the period 2000-2003. During this period he supported the introduction of the first IOMP Awards at the WC2000 in Chicago - an initiative of Prof. John Cameron and Prof. Azam Niroomand-Rad, with whom he had very good professional relations.

Prof. Chomicki was the first IOMP President after the inclusion of our professions in the International Council for Sciences (ICS, formerly ICSU), in this position he supported the first steps and links with other scientific and professional organizations.

Prof. Chomicki was author and co-author of many scientific papers. He was co-author and translator of books on the subject of application accelerators in medicine. He was Honorary Member of the Polish Society of Medical Physics and Honorary Member of the European Federation of the Organizations for Medical Physics (EFOMP). In 2013 he was made Fellow of IOMP. In his home country Prof. Chomicki was made Cavalier of the Gold Merit Cross and of the Medal Well Deserved for Warsaw.

Prof. Chomicki passing away is a loss for the whole profession. During events associated with the International Day of Medical Physics (7 November 2018) in Poland, he was honoured with a minute of silence.

My first meeting with Oscar was related to our passion to help colleagues from LMIC – this was at the WC1997 in Nice, France, where he invited me to co-chair with him the session for education in developing countries. I had just completed the establishment of one of the first medical physics MSc courses in Eastern Europe (project ERM) and we discussed the development of another such course for the three Baltic states. This project was later materialised and Oscar came at the special Workshop associated with this Baltic MSc in Tallin, Estonia, 1999. From these meetings, from our collaboration and from our many emails, I shall remember him as an outstanding person, a true gentleman of highest intellectual calibre.

After his retirement Prof. Chomicki wrote books related to the history of his well known family in Poland and was supporting us with advice on many occasions (he wrote one of the papers in the first issue of the MPI Journal).

With his open-hearted smile and consensus-seeking approach, Prof. Chomicki helped many of us in our first steps in the international professional development. IOMP included Obituaries for him on its web site and its eMPW Newsletter, informing all our members in 86 countries. Deep condolences were sent to his family from all ExCom.

Prof. Oscar Adolf Chomicki was one of the international pillars of our profession and we shall never forget his contribution to the development of medical physics.

On behalf of IOMP: Prof. S. Tabakov, IOMP President 2015-2018, with contributions from Prof. M Radwanska, Prof. P Kukulowicz, Prof. M Rehani (current IOMP President), EFOMP and IOMP web sites.