

5th Symposium "Free Radicals in Biology and Medicine" was held in Łódź 7–10 June 2000

The organization of the meeting was a joint effort of Polish Group of SFRR-Europe, Polish Biophysical Society and the Institute of Biophysics of Łódź University. Major sponsors of the symposium included the State Committee for Scientific Research, the Committee of Biochemistry and Biophysics of Polish Academy of Sciences, Ministry for National Education, the City Hall and the University of Łódź.

It was the fifth international symposium on free radicals that the Polish Group of SFRR has organized since 1993, and the fourth one held in Łódź. This time it lasted four days (some participants criticized that too long!) and was filled with lectures and social events. We were able to bring together scientists from most European countries as well as some representatives from the overseas. We are especially glad that we were able to support the participation of the increasing number of our colleagues from Eastern European countries what resulted in a nice mixture of "the East and the West". There were 170 participants and out of them 55 from abroad: Austria, Australia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Ukraine and the USA. The programme consisted of 10 lecture sessions: – Antioxidant enzymes – Nitric oxide – Reactive oxygen species in photodynamic therapy and hyperthermia – Antioxidants – Reactive oxygen species in apoptosis – Reactive oxygen species in pathology – Reactive oxygen species in cellular metabolism – Free radical damage to proteins – Free radical damage to DNA – Free radical damage to membranes – and two poster sessions. 52 talks were delivered by foreign and domestic speakers and there were 116 poster presentations both on basic science of free radical research and its biological and medical aspects and applications.

Scientific discussions, exchange of views as well as informal meetings and encounters at the symposium were stimulating, educational and informative.

It seems that these free radical symposia organized by us every two years have already become a tradition and we have been encouraged by many participants to continue. So, let me finish with a hope that we will find enough strength, drive and support to host the next one in 2002. But where? In Łódź again ...?

Prof. Maria Bryszewska
Chairperson of the Organizing Committee

The publication of the Symposium materials was supported by the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) and the Committee of Biochemistry and Biophysics of Polish Academy of Sciences.