

MY REFLECTIONS

(Thirty Years of Polish Biophysical Society)

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The words coming to my mind are: thirty years passed as one day, but it really is 30 years since the registration of the Polish Biophysical Society. I remember how much effort it took for us, among others with Professor Wanda Leyko, to found the Society and how proud we were to have succeeded.

In 1976 the Polish Biophysical Society together with Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe issued the first volume of the *Zagadnienia Biofizyki Współczesnej* edited by Prof Wanda Leyko. In the preface Prof Leyko wrote: 'Biophysics is a young, rapidly developing discipline. It is one of the disciplines of natural science although its range and strict definition is still a subject of discussions'. This sentence is also true at present – it develops very fast but still it is difficult to define. It is an interdisciplinary science combining practically all fundamental disciplines: biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics and medical sciences. Its interdisciplinary character is revealed at the meetings of the Society, the first was organized by the Łódź branch in Uniejów, in 1973, which gather specialists from many field of natural science.

I remember when being the President of the Board of the Polish Biophysical Society (1976-1980), with my coworkers from the Faculty of Pharmacy, at the Silesian Medical University in Sosnowiec, I organized the 4th meeting of the Society in Kozubnik in 1979. What a great effort it was! At that time organization of a large national meeting with a number of invited speakers from abroad (including those from behind the iron curtain) at a mountain resort was quite a some-thing.

Fortunately, thanks to the help of some kind people it was a success and the international contacts brought some good publications.

For many years the Polish Biophysical Society was the apple of my eye. While being the president of the Katowice Branch in the years 1972–1976 and 1984–1986 I persuaded many scientists from the Faculty of Pharmacy and the two Faculties of Medicine at the Silesian Medical University and Silesian University to enroll to the Society. We worked hard and organized many meetings. Our Katowice Branch gave birth to a new Branch in Zabrze. It was a wonderful time of profound scientific development of the Polish Biophysical Society members and this is what I cherish in my memory.

At present there are many scientific societies gathering people working in still narrowing disciplines. Financial problems of our Society and high competition forced us to intense activity in order to maintain a position worked out for many years. I regret to note that the past splendor of the Polish Biophysical Society has deteriorated. I am glad that the Society still issues its periodical, since 1999 (vol. 16) under the name of *Current Topics in Biophysics*. However, I miss the enthusiasm of the previous years. The Jubilee of 30 years of existence calls for some comments and conclusions. Perhaps a full mobilization of all Branches and organization of a great scientific meeting could help? Perhaps in this way we should celebrate the 30 years of the activity of our Society?