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PREFACE

The First Forum EMR-PL was held in Rzeszów, Poland, on 19th – 21st May 2010. Continuing with the spirit of the previous RAMIS conferences, this Forum was open to all participants involved in the studies utilizing the electron magnetic resonance (EMR) spectroscopy, both basic research as well as practical applications. The main aims were to bring together as many EMR (EPR/ESR & FMR/AFMR) spectroscopists working in Poland as possible, and to promote and facilitate collaboration among the Polish EMR community.

The Forum's opening session was devoted to the memory of the late Professor Jan Stankowski, with Prof. K. Dyrek presenting personal remembrances on Prof. Stankowski, and three presentations, which are also included in this Issue. Two other specialized sessions, namely, (A): *Improvement and development of EMR equipment in Poland* and (B) *Perspectives of development of EMR (EPR/ESR) research in Poland*, were organized during the First Forum EMR-PL. About 63 researchers from nearly all EMR-related groups active in Poland participated in this Forum giving 15 invited lectures, 9 oral talks, and 22 poster presentations.

It is to be hoped that this Inaugural Forum will play an important role in enhancing future EMR research in Poland. Importantly, the General Meeting of the Polish EPR Society was held during the Forum. A whole range of topics of interest to the whole EMR community was discussed, among others, the venue for future Forum events and the new organizational structure of the body representing our community – *see a separate Announcement*.

This Special Issue of Current Topics in Biophysics online (CTBo): "*Current status and perspectives of EMR (EPR/ESR) research in Poland*", contains not only most of the papers presented at the First Forum EMR-PL but, importantly, also more contributions. Since an invitation to submit papers to this Issue was extended to all EMR researchers working in the country, it is representative, to a great extent, for the whole EMR community in Poland. Hence, the Special CTBo Issue may serve as an overview of Polish activities and contributions to the EMR research.

Special thanks go to the authors who have submitted papers to this Issue, due to whom the idea of commemorating Professor Jan Stankowski by this publication has been made possible to realize. As Editors we have made several attempts to encourage all researchers working in the area of EMR (EPR/ESR) in Poland to contribute papers to this Issue. We have received an overwhelming support from the EMR community. However, a few research groups are not represented here of their own choice, for various reasons. As Editors we have to respect such personal choices.

All papers have been refereed by one and, in some cases, by two reviewers. As a result of the review process two papers were withdrawn from further consideration. We express our gratitude to the members of the Scientific Committee of the First Forum EMR-PL as well as other colleagues who have referred the papers collected in this Issue. We are very grateful to Prof. Andrzej Dobek and Dr Przemysław M. Płonka, the CTBo Editors, for their guidance. Due to the efforts of the authors as well as the dedication of the referees and the editors, the Special CTBo Issue satisfies high scientific and publishing standards. The total number of 48 papers included in this Issue may be considered as a success of the Polish EMR community and, to a great extent, as Prof. Stankowski's legacy.

Czesław Rudowicz
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Kazimierz Dziliński
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Group photo of the participants at I Forum-PL, May 19-21, 2010, Rzeszów, Poland