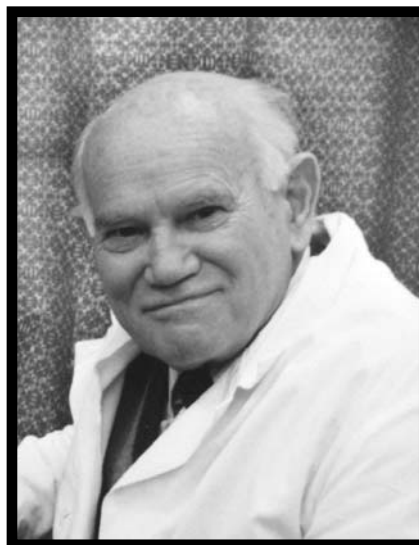


Professor Antoni M. Danczewicz



Professor Antoni M. Danczewicz D.Sc., former head of the Radiation Biochemistry Laboratory at the Department of Radiobiology and Health Protection of the Institute of Nuclear Research (later transformed into the Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology) passed away on September 21st 2011 at the age of 89.

Originally a chemist, he started to work at the Institute of Nuclear Research in the year of its establishment (1955), and was involved in radiation biochemistry and biology research. He earned his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences in 1961. From 1963 on he was head of the Radiation Biochemistry Laboratory, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. He was also deputy head of the department for 11 years (1973–1984). He earned his D.Sc. degree in 1969 and the title of Professor in Biological Sciences in 1977.

Professor Danczewicz devoted his career first to studying the mechanisms of ionising radiation effects on hematopoiesis *in vitro* and *in vivo*, defining the role of delta-aminolevulinic acid synthase and ferrochelatase in haem biosynthesis. Later, the main topics of his studies became the dependence of radiation effects on the intracellular localisation of enzymes, the late effects of ionising radiation in the lungs and other tissues of laboratory animals, the radiolytic changes in connective proteins (mainly collagen) and the chemical and physical features of radiation-induced protein aggregates. The latter topics were studied under auspices of EULEP in cooperation with the Radiobiology Department of the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre in Mol. His last papers were on the ionising radiation effects on eicosanoid metabolism due to cyclooxygenase activity modification by reactive oxygen species. Although he retired in 1988, he continued to work at the Institute, contributing to the organisation of the Laboratory of Detection of Irradiated Food and to establishing the necessary analytical methodology from 1996 until 2002.

Professor Danczewicz's scientific contributions earned him the Maria Skłodowska-Curie medal from the Polish Association of Radiation Research. He also was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit and the Knight's Cross of the Order of Rebirth of Poland and was an Honorary Member of the Institute's Scientific Council.

In the lab, Professor Danczewicz was a talented scientist, who contributed greatly to the growth of the Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology and to the development of radiation biochemistry; he was a demanding but friendly supervisor, and a successful mentor to several PhD students. He will be remembered not only for his important contributions in the field of radiation biochemistry and radiobiology but also for his warm and outgoing personality and his sense of humour. He will be missed by all who knew him.