

FROM THE EDITORS

John Donne, the leading poet of the early English Baroque, wrote: *the death of every man diminishes me*. Sometimes these words become painfully true. The last weeks were especially sad for psychiatry. First, after the struggle with serious malignant disease, our editorial colleague, Doctor Tomasz Zyss, passed away. He was involved in “Psychiatria Polska” as an author of numerous articles and a thematic editor dealing primarily with texts on neuroscience, psychopharmacology and biological treatment of mental disorders. He has always been cheerful, easy-going and optimistic. He has always responded with his characteristic “oki-doki” to every request of the Editors. He was only 50 years old.

Just the night before Tomek’s funeral, just after 10 p.m., our Mentor, Teacher, Friend, and genuine Authority – Professor Jerzy Vetulani, passed away. In recent days, much has been written about His outstanding academic achievements, His books, articles, interviews and fantastic lectures. He also found his place in Psychiatria Polska [1, 2]. He was present during most of the important scientific events in the field of psychiatry, He gave His speeches at conferences, symposiums and panel discussions. He was interested not only in psychopharmacology and neurobiology of psychiatric disorders, in which He was one of the world’s leading experts, but also in the issues of borderline of philosophy, ethics and art, i.e., broadly understood humanities. He masterfully combined His extraordinary erudition and broad general knowledge with strictly scientific issues. He forced us to ask ourselves the key questions about consciousness, identity and the essence of humanity. At the same time, he has always been looking at human impulses and frailties with understanding of a naturalist who understands that good brain functioning is responsible for our morality and empathy, and that various behaviors – including socially unacceptable ones – have their neurobiological basis and evolutionary significance.

The Professor knew how to talk to everyone; He liked people and He was very open and cheerful. He has always been surrounded by interesting people and He was always a faithful Friend. He has never been backbiting others or enjoying someone else’s troubles. On the contrary – He has been enjoying the success of others, emphasizing their advantages; I repeatedly heard him saying about someone that “this is an excellent man”. This also attracted others. He liked to learn from His interlocutors, He was able to bring out something value out of almost every statement. I recall *Dezyderata*, one of the hymns of Piwnica pod Baranami, with which he was connected in his youth: “(...) listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story”. In every story, Jurek could find some wisdom that he later passed on to others.

It is difficult to accept that he passed away. On the other hand, I know He would not want to be disabled, He would not want to burden others. He was spared loneliness, long suffering, dependence on others, and disability. He died in his prime, retaining an extremely

brilliant and creative mind. Paraphrasing the beautiful “Carol for the Absent” by Zbigniew Preisner – “the air is still trembling” after his voice, and I ask for “faith that it makes sense. That we do not have to regret friends. That wherever they are, they are well because they are with us, although in other form”. Jurek, you will always be with us.

Dominika Dudek – Editor-in-Charge

With great regret we say farewell to Doctor Tomasz Zyss and Professor Jerzy Vetulani,
“Let us hurry to love people...”

**Jerzy A. Sobański
Katarzyna Klasa**

References

1. Vetulani J. *Biologiczne podstawy psychiatrii*. Psychiatr. Pol. 2001; 35(6): 911-919.
2. Vetulani J. *Neurochemistry of impulsiveness and aggression*. Psychiatr. Pol 2013; 57(1): 103-115.