



REPORT FROM THE 6TH CONGRESS OF THE POLISH SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOLOGY

Sprawozdanie z VI Zjazdu Polskiego Towarzystwa Biologii Medycznej



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Abstract

The 6th Scientific Congress of the Polish Society of Medical Biology (2024) was held in Warsaw from 19 to 21 September 2024. The meeting took place at the Airport Hotel Okęcie in Warsaw. This traditional gathering brought together scientists and clinicians to explore the broad spectrum of medical biology. Participants had the opportunity to attend lectures delivered by leading experts and share their own experiences in the field. There was also an opportunity to present scientific findings and forge new professional and personal connections. The Management Board of the Polish Society of Medical Biology entrusted the organisation of the Congress to the Military Institute of Medicine – National Research Institute and the University of Warsaw.

Streszczenie

VI Zjazd Naukowy Polskiego Towarzystwa Biologii Medycznej odbył się w Warszawie w dniach 19–21 września 2024 roku. Obrady miały miejsce w Airport Hotel Okęcie. Było to tradycyjne spotkanie naukowców i klinicystów zajmujących się szeroko pojętymi zagadnieniami biologii medycznej. Uczestnicy mieli okazję wysłuchać wykładów wybitnych przedstawicieli tej dyscypliny naukowej oraz wymienić z nimi poglądy. Była to także okazja do przedstawienia własnych prac i nawiązania nowych kontaktów zawodowych i osobistych. Organizację Zjazdu Zarząd Polskiego Towarzystwa Biologii Medycznej tym razem powierzył Wojskowemu Instytutowi Medycznemu – Państwowemu Instytutowi Badawczemu oraz Uniwersytetowi Warszawskiemu.

Keywords: medical biology; scientific congress

Słowa kluczowe: biologia medyczna; zjazd naukowy

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The 6th Scientific Congress of the Polish Society of Medical Biology took place in Warsaw from 19 to 21 September 2024, and was organised by the Military Institute of Medicine – National Research Institute and the University of Warsaw. The inauguration was attended by Lieutenant General Dariusz Łukowski, Deputy Head of the National Security Bureau, accompanied by the Head's adviser Lucjan Bełza; Deputy Minister of Science Maciej Gdula; Deputy Governor of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Patryk Fajdek; Deputy Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Anna Katarzyna Brzezińska; President of the National Chamber of Laboratory Diagnosticians Monika Pintal-Ślimak; Rector of the University of Warsaw Alojzy Z. Nowak; and Director of the Military Institute of Medicine – National Research Institute, Major General Grzegorz Gielerak.

Traditionally, the meeting brought together scientists and clinicians focused on the broad field of medical biology. Participants had the opportunity to attend lectures delivered by leading representatives of this scientific field, exchange views with them, and discuss their own research findings. The Congress also provided a platform for presenting individual work and establishing new interdisciplinary scientific collaborations. This year's edition was the largest to date and exceptional in many respects. In addition to a record-breaking turnout of over 250 participants, this year's Congress welcomed an unprecedented number of young scientists – including students and doctoral candidates. The event truly embodied the mission of the Polish Society of Medical Biology, promoting both interdisciplinary collaboration and intergenerational exchange.



Figure 1. Opening of the Congress. From left to right: Patryk Fajdek, Deputy Governor of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship; Prof. Zbigniew Izdebski, Coordinator of the Medical Faculty, University of Warsaw; Prof. Grzegorz Gielera, Director of the Military Institute of Medicine – National Research Institute; Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak, Rector of the University of Warsaw (Photo by Krystian Szczęśny)

The Congress opened with an inaugural lecture delivered by a world-renowned expert in gene therapy, Professor Ian Alexander from the Children's Medical Research Institute and the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, University of Sydney, Australia. Professor Alexander presented his team's research on innovative therapies for liver cell modifications. These therapies utilise various engineered forms of AAV (adeno-associated viruses) to achieve stable genome editing of hepatocytes in both paediatric and adult patients.

The Congress featured a series of outstanding lectures delivered by leading Polish and international scientists. The scientific proceedings were organised into 17 thematic sessions – including cell biology, immunology, oncology, paediatrics, molecular medicine, regenerative medicine, epidemiology, diagnostics, and medical chemistry – during which 58 presentations were given. Additionally, two poster sessions showcased a total of 60 poster presentations. Two sessions for young scientists were also organised – one oral and one poster session – during which young students of biology, biotechnology



Figure 2. Networking discussions. From left to right: Prof. Jacek Kubiak, Prof. Maria Anna Ciemerych-Litwinienko, Prof. Bolesław Kalicki, Deputy Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship – Anna Katarzyna Brzezińska (Photo by Krystian Szczęśny)

and medicine had the opportunity to present their work and discuss their research findings with leading experts in their fields.

The significance of the event was highlighted by the presence of a distinguished group of plenary speakers. Among those who accepted the invitation were: Prof. Maria Siemionow (Microsurgery Research, Department of Orthopaedics, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA), Prof. Małgorzata Kloc (Houston Methodist Research Institute, Transplant Immunology, Houston, TX, USA), Prof. Wiktor Jędrzejczak (University Clinical Centre, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland), Prof. Andrzej Dziembowski (International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw / University of Warsaw, Poland), Prof. Piotr Siciński (Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School / Department of Cancer Biology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, USA), Prof. Jacek Jemielity (Centre of New Technologies, University of Warsaw, Poland), Prof. Michael Stear (Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences, AgriBio, La Trobe University, Australia), Dr Marcin Pękalski (University of Oxford, UK / Laboratory of Molecular Oncology and Innovative Therapies, Military Institute of Medicine – National Research Insti-



Figure 3. Congress inauguration, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education – Prof. Maciej Gdula (Photo by Krystian Szczęśny)



Figure 4. Congress inauguration, Chair of the Scientific Committee Prof. Ewa Bulska and Prof. Bolesław Kalicki (Photo by Krystian Szczęśny)



Figure 5. Ceremonial awarding of the title of Honorary Member of the Polish Society of Medical Biology to Prof. Jacek Malejczyk from the Medical University of Warsaw (Photo by Krystian Szczęsny)

tute, Poland), Dr Tino Schenk (Clinic of Internal Medicine II, University Hospital Jena, Department of Haematology and Medical Oncology, and Institute of Molecular Cell Biology, Centre for Molecular Biomedicine, Jena, Germany).

The thematic sessions also upheld exceptionally high scientific standards in both lectures and presentations.



Figure 6. Inaugural lecture by prof. Ian Alexander from Children's Medical Research Institute and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, University of Sydney, Australia (Photo by Krystian Szczęsny)

Numerous distinguished Polish experts shared their research results and clinical achievements.

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