

## PREFACE: UKRAINIAN-POLISH-COOPERATION

In 2004 group of researchers and physicians from Ukraine participated in the 28th Congress of the Polish Respiratory Society by invitation of the Organizing Committee and the Warsaw-Otwock Branch of the Society.

The driving motion of this initiative was the great wish to establish closer collaboration between Polish and Ukrainian research workers and physicians, to inspire the exchange of mutual experiences in research work and clinical practice and finally to help our patients that suffer the same pain and diseases on both sides of Polish-Ukrainian border.

During the Congress the Polish-Ukrainian workshop was organized with number of speakers from leading Institutes and Medical Schools in Ukraine (Bogomoletz Physiology Institute, Gerontology Institute of Academy of Medical Science, Medical Academy Advances Postgraduate Education from Kiev, Donetsk State Medical University Ternopil State Medical Academy) and Poland (National Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Research Institute, Children's Memorial Health Institute in Warsaw, Warsaw Medical School, Medical University School in Lodz).

During the following meeting of Polish and Ukrainian cooperation enthusiasts the LETTER OF INTENTION with the following text was prepared:

*"The participants of the first Polish-Ukrainian Workshop, organized during the XXVIII Congress of the Polish Society of Phthysiopneumology in Lodz 22–25 September 2004 to intend to organize the POLISH-UKRAINIAN WORKING GROUP OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF RESPIRATION.*

*The idea of this working group is to stimulate the cooperation of Polish and Ukrainian research workers and physicians to progress the development of knowledge and clinical experiences in pathophysiology of respiratory system. The exchange of theoretical and clinical experience will be useful for the students and physicians to management of respiratory disorders of both sides of the same border".*

This letter was sign by Professor Tatiana Serebrovskaya and Irina Mankovskaya from the Physiology Bogomoletz Institute in Kiev. Professor Dr Valeriy Shatilo from the Gerontology Institute AMS of Ukraine, Professor Rustem A. Abyzov from the Academy Advanced Postgraduate Education in Kiev, professor Igor Zinkovych from Donieck State Medical University and professor Leonid Hryshchuk from Ternopil State Medical Academy.

From the Polish side the letter signed prof. Janusz Kowalski, docent Anna Doboszynska and doctor Tadeusz M. Zielonka of the Warsaw-Otwock Brange of the Polish Society of Lung Diseases, prof. D. Nowak chief of the Clinical Physiopathology Lab of Medical University in Lodz and docent Piotr Gutkowski, chief of the Lung Function Department in Children's Memorial Health Institute in Warsaw.

The letter of intention was discussed during the plenary meeting of the Polish Respiratory Society and accepted by voting of Society General Assembly. Simultaneously, the Polish-Ukrainian Working Group was created and incorporated in the organization structure of the Society. Two coordinators of the Working Group were designed: Professor Tatiana Serebrovskaya from the Institute of Physiology in Kiev, and Prof. Janusz Kowalski from the

Board of Warsaw-Otwock Branch of the Polish Respiratory Society.

The concept of Polish-Ukrainian collaboration was also greatly supported by both Polish and Ukrainian National Delegates of European Respiratory Society (dr. Joanna Chorostowska-Wynimko, professor Jury Feshchenko).

The program of the Polish-Ukrainian Working Group includes three main points:

- Organization of annual Polish-Ukrainian research meetings, alternatively in Poland and in Ukraine.
- Exchange of students and young physicians and organization of training programs in institutes and medical schools in both countries.
- Initiation and installation of multi-center research programs in both countries.

The first direct implementation of our idea is the Ukrainian-Polish Symposium organized in Kiev by the Polish-Ukrainian Working Group of Clinical and Experimental Pathophysiology of Respiration in collaboration with Polish and Ukrainian ERS National Delegates as well as many distinguished scientist and physicians form Ukrainian and Polish Research Institutes and Medical Schools. The general and unique idea of this meeting is to share and compare our experiences in broad range of topics related to respiratory medicine from basic science to clinics in order to attract both scientists and clinicians. Main lectures included in every session are constructed as the state-of-the-art presentations of current trends in pathophysiology of respiration as well as diagnostics and treatment of selected respiratory diseases. Furthermore, major research programs currently ongoing in participating Institutes are to be presented.

We expect that this Symposium will offer excellent opportunity both for the creative exchange of experiences as well as strengthening contacts, between our two neighbouring countries.

We believe that development of dialogue and intellectual collaboration is the best way to further advance the European integration process.

We sincerely invite members of medical societies from both countries to participate in activities of our Working Group of experimental and clinical pathophysiology of respiration.

### *Coordinators of the Working Group*

#### **Professor Janusz Kowalski**

Emeritus National Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Research Institute in Warsaw. Member of the Warsaw-Otwock Board of Polish Society of Lung Diseases. Honorary Member of Polish Society of Lung Diseases and Honorary Member of the German Society of Pneumology in Bochum

#### **Dr. Tatiana Serebrovskaya, Ph.D.**

Doctor of Biol. Sci., Academician of Int. Acad. Sci., Principal Researcher of the Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology, Kiev

*Kiev and Warsaw in April 2005*