

XLVI Winter School of the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland; “The Light Side of the Force”

The XLVI Winter School of the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University, entitled “The Light Side of the Force”, took place in Zakopane on February 11th–15th, 2019. This event was held under the honorary patronage of Prof. dr hab. Zbigniew Madeja, the Dean of the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology and the Polish Biochemical Society.

A special session on February 11th was in Honor of Professor Halina Gabryś, a distinguished member of the Faculty. Her scientific work focused on photoreceptor signaling in plants. Together with Professor Tadeusz Walczak, she constructed a double beam photometer to assess chloroplast movements. Professor Halina Gabryś was involved in identification of the blue light photoreceptor – phototropin2, responsible for controlling the chloroplast avoidance response. These results were published in Nature. In 2001 she was honored with the title of a professor of biological sciences. In 2009 she became the Head of the Department of Plant Biotechnology. Professor Gabryś was a principal investigator in 14 research projects, including 2 European Union projects (FP7). Her publication record includes 66 experimental papers, 3 book chapters, and 17 reviews, with almost 1300 citations.

At the Winter School, six regular lecture sessions, entitled: “Light as a driving force in signaling pathways”, “Shades of blue light”, “Enlightened by imaging”, “The driving force of electron chain”, “Nucleic acids come to light”, “DNA metabolism – a driving FORCE in cell survival”, and two poster sessions were held. They covered topics related to light signaling, imaging in biology and DNA metabolism. Among the 20 lecturers and 56 poster authors there were researchers and students from the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, Jagiellonian University and other scientific institutions from Poland, Germany, France, Switzerland and UK.

The scientific program of the School was filled with numerous social events. Lively scientific discussions and planning of future collaborations had started at the Welcome party, continued during the “wine & beer” parties, the 9th Annual Professor Zygmunt Wasylewski Memorial Ski Race Competition, tours to Rusinowa Polana and Nature Education Center and were finalized during the Closing Dinner.

The organization of the School would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors (Fundacja im. prof. Zygmunta Wasylewskiego dla WBBiB UJ, Polskie Towarzystwo Biochemiczne, Bio-Rad Polska Sp. z o.o., BINDER Central Services GmbH & Co. KG, Genomed S. A., Smartlab s.c, Lab-JOT® Ltd. Sp.z o.o. Sp. k., Merck Sp. z o.o., Eppendorf Poland Sp. z o.o., SANLAB J. Kaczorek, M. Bińczak sp. j., A&A Biotechnology s.c., PWN Wydawnictwo Szkolne sp. z o.o. sp.k., Lab Empire s.c. Ewa Magdalena Lach, Grażyna Pyczula, Biogenet Sp. z o.o., „Shim-Pol A.M. Borzymowski” E. Borzymowska – Reszka, A. Reszka Sp. j., PROMEGA GMBH High-Tech-Park). The sponsors not only participated in the organization costs, but also gave 2 lectures.

A rich scientific program of the XLVI Winter School resulted in a special issue of *Acta Biochimica Polonica*, which contains 4 articles. Eckstein and co-workers revealed a new function of *Arabidopsis* transcription factor responsible for trichome formation, GLABRA1, in dark induced senescence. The activities of recombinant violaxanthin de-epoxidases from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* were compared by Olchawa-Pajor and co-workers. Lang and co-workers tested the effect of a water-soluble [60]fullerene derivative on growth of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*. Finally, the work by Sowińska and co-workers drew attention to possible side-effects of the Sleeping Beauty transposon system on gene expression.

Thanks everyone for participation, and see you next year!

The Organizing Committee