

# **XLIII Winter School of the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland;**

## **„Biomolecules: from structure to function”**

In 2016 our annual Winter School took place on February 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> in Zakopane, and was organized under the honorary patronage of the Dean, Prof. Zbigniew Madeja. This year we hosted 156 participants – not only from our Faculty, but also from other Universities and Companies such as University of Gdansk; Technical University of Lodz; Malopolska Centre of Biotechnology, Jagiellonian University; University of Warsaw; Wrocław University of Technology; International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Warsaw; Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, La Jolla, USA; German Cancer Research Center DKFZ, Heidelberg, Germany; AstraZeneca PLC, Cambridge, UK; Institute of Structural Biology, Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany; Le Studium Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies, France. A total of 31 lectures was given on topics spanning from proteolytic enzymes, structural biology, host-patogen interactions to genome editing tools. Moreover, recent results were presented on 82 posters in two sessions.

Articles presented in this special issue of *Acta Biochimica Polonica* discuss different aspects of the School's theme concentrating on biomolecules important in yeast-host interaction, the influence of the curcumin on carcinosarcoma cells, the effect of methylxanthines on bronchial fibroblasts, the role of the abscisic acid and blue light signaling pathways in chloroplast movements, the importance of structures present in 3' untranslated region of ZC3H12A mRNA for its self-regulation, the methods useful for obtaining high purity diatom pigments and the crosstalk between dopaminergic and kinin receptors.

The special guest of the School was Professor Adam Dubin, a great biochemist, a specialist in the fields of protein chemistry and enzymology. Professor Dubin was a distinguished member of our academic staff, longtime head of the Department of Analytical Biochemistry and Deputy Dean of the Faculty. He retired in October 2015. The session “From Biochemistry to Biotechnology” was devoted to the scientific achievements of our special guest.

The focus of the Winter School was to present research results from our Faculty, as well as from other universities and research institutions. However, a lot of opportunities for networking and the rich social program helped to form personal bonds which may last for years to come. We hope that the meeting will result in many collaborations and new developments in biochemistry, biophysics and biotechnology.

The School would not be possible without the generous support of a number of sponsors: VWR International Sp. z o.o., Promega GmbH, ImmunoGEN Sp. z o.o., Eppendorf Poland Sp. z o.o., Merck Sp. z o.o., CELLLAB, Lab Empire s.c., CytoGen - Polska Sp. z o.o., SARSTEDT Sp. z o.o., Lab-JOT® Ltd. Sp. z o.o. Sp.k., Sigma-Aldrich Sp. z o.o., EURx Sp. z o.o., Selvita S.A., MEDianus Sp. z o.o. and Foundation of Prof. Zygmunt Wasylewski for FBBB UJ.

Additional funding was provided by the KNOW program.

In spite of a rather warm weather we still managed to organise the 6th Annual Professor Zygmunt Wasylewski Memorial Ski Competition which was held at Harena Ski Resort. This event was met by an enthusiastic reaction from our participants and resulted in some healthy rivalry and a lot of entertaining moments.

**On behalf of the Organizing Committee**

**Aneta Kasza**

