

Obituary



Magdalena Dubiel-Bigaj, MD, Ph.D.

03.03.1941–22.09.2005

In September 2005, our good friend, a specialist pathomorphologist, Magdalena Dubiel-Bigaj, departed from us. Born in Cracow on March 3, 1941, for several years after World War II she lived in Wroclaw, where her mother died. Having returned to Cracow, it was here that she completed her elementary and then secondary education; she attended the No. VI high school, where she received her diploma in 1958. Between 1958 and 1964, she was a student of the Medical Academy of Cracow. She received her Diploma of Physician on June 22, 1964. She spent her internship and residency in the Gabriel Narutowicz Municipal Hospital and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Hospital in Cracow, and then became employed by the Chair of Pathomorphology, Medical Academy of Cracow, where she worked until her retirement in 2003. Here she passed her first-degree board examination in pathological anatomy in 1969, and her second-degree exam in 1972. At that time, she was an assistant, lecturer and then senior lecturer.

As an element of her research work, she gained a doctorate in September 1975, having presented her doctoral dissertation entitled “Ultrasound studies of rat thymocytes in early stages of magnesium

deficit". The thesis resulted from her involvement in electron microscopy investigations and her interest in histochemistry.

Between 1972 and 2003, she was Associate Editor at the Editorial Board of *Patologia Polska* (the Polish Pathology), and later, when the name of the periodical changed, of the Polish Journal of Pathology. While she occupied this honorary position, she became known in the entire milieu of Polish pathologists as a kind and friendly professional, attentive to an appropriate factual and editorial level of the journal. All submitting authors remember her contribution in our periodical attaining the highest level.

As a member of the Chair's Faculty, she was the sole author and co-author of numerous research reports; she also helped her colleagues in their investigations and in preparing doctoral dissertations.

It should be emphasized that Dr. Dubiel-Bigaj was very much involved in research and diagnostics-associated studies in the field of maxillofacial surgery, what resulted in the publication of a book entitled "Odontogenic tumors and cysts of the maxillary bones", much sought for by dentists.

Another focus of her interest was kidney diseases. Given her vast experience, investigations she supervised on biopsy materials studied by immunohistochemistry and ultrastructural methods allowed for prompt establishment of firm diagnoses. In this field, Dr. Dubiel-Bigaj was a well-recognized specialist in the region of southeast Poland. The investigations gave origin to numerous research papers she co-authored.

For many years, she was engaged in teaching students of the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry; in addition, she also participated in postgraduate training of specialists in pathomorphology. She was always well liked by her students and colleagues alike for her honesty and integrity, as well as her willingness to help in diagnostic management. Often, she volunteered her time and participated in various organizational and substantive activities of the Chair. We all appreciate her contribution in organizing anew the museum of macroscopic exhibits collected by the Chair's Faculty - she was an informal custodian of the museum.

In the last years, despite her poor health, she strove for continuing her work, especially in microscopic diagnostic management that was her passion. Her retirement after 40 years of work filled us with sorrow, but we understood that only her health problems could have prevented Dr. Dubiel-Bigaj from further collaborating with us. Her death left a void in our lives, but she will remain in our hearts and minds as an exemplary friend and teacher.

Farewell, Madzia!

**Friends and colleagues
from the Chair of Pathomorphology,
Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University**