

Review articles

Fifty Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology

Anna Wójcik, Joanna Błaszowska

Chair of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Medical University of Lodz, 1Hallera Square, 90-647 Lodz, Poland

Corresponding author: Anna Wójcik; E-mail: anna.wojcik@umed.lodz.pl

ABSTRACT. The history of annual meetings of parasitologists under the name of *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology* began on 24th February 1962 at the initiative of Prof. Józef Waclaw Grott, MD, PhD, the Head of the 1st Internal Diseases Department, Medical Academy of Lodz. The purpose of the meeting was promotion of parasitological issues among practicing physicians and enabling them to meet experienced researchers in the field of parasitology. In subsequent years the organization of the Conference has been continued by the staff of the Chair and Department of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Medical Academy/Medical University of Lodz. In the course of over 50 annual sessions of *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology*, a total of 1678 lectures, papers and reports on parasitological and mycological issues were presented, including those on therapy and diagnostics, as well as on environmental determinants of parasitic diseases and fungal infections.

Key words: Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology, parasitology, mycology

Annual meetings held for 50 years under the name of *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology* have long-standing tradition. The idea of the Conference on human parasites was given by Prof. Józef Waclaw Grott, MD, PhD (1894–1973), the Head of the 1st Internal Diseases Department of Medical Academy of Lodz. On 24th February 1962, together with his colleagues: Eugeniusz Wawrzyński MD, PhD, Ryszard Kuźmicki MD, PhD, and Zygmunt Dzieciołowski MD, PhD, in cooperation with members of the Polish Parasitological Society, Lodz Division, organized the *1st Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology*, with leading theme giardiasis [1]. The purpose of the meeting was popularization of parasitological issues among practicing physicians and enabling them to contact with experienced researchers in the field of parasitology. In the interview published in the „Głos Robotniczy” (1962) Prof. J.W. Grott said: „Basing on the assumption that our achievements and methods of parasitic diseases treatment should become the property of the wider community, the 1st Internal Diseases Department of the Medical

Academy of Lodz in cooperation with the Polish Parasitological Society, organized the first of its specificity nationwide scientific meeting under the name *Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology*, which was attended by physicians from around the country”. The first part of the meeting included lectures on etiopathology, clinical practice, treatment, epidemiology and social significance of giardiasis. In the second part, own clinical cases of the parasitosis observed by participants were presented. The third part of the meeting concerned other parasitological issues, mainly trichomonosis and helminthoses. A total of 25 lectures and reports were presented. 152 practitioners and scientists from many Polish academic centres participated in the *1st Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology*.

The team of the 1st Internal Diseases Department, Medical Academy of Lodz, together with the Lodz Division of Polish Parasitological Society and the Department of Biology and Parasitology, Medical Academy of Lodz, organized also the *2nd* and *3rd Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology*. After retirement of Prof. J. W. Grott,



Fig. 1. Prof. Józef Waclaw Grott (by courtesy of prof. A. Kurnatowski MD, PhD)



Fig. 2. Dr hab. Eugeniusz Wawrzyński (by courtesy of prof. A. Kurnatowski MD, PhD)



Fig. 3. Dr Ryszard Kuźmicki (by courtesy of J. Borowska-Kuźmicka MD, PhD)

the organization of subsequent symposia was taken over by the team of the Department of Biology and Medical Parasitology headed by Prof. Rościław Kadłubowski, MD, PhD. A huge role in organizing annual nationwide meetings of parasitologists have played particularly Prof. Alicja Kurnatowska MD, PhD (long-standing President of Lodz Division of

the Polish Parasitological Society, and the Head of the Chair and Department of Biology and Parasitology, Medical Academy of Lodz), Henry Malinowski MD, PhD (present Head of the Department of Diagnostics and Treatment of Parasitic Diseases and Mycoses), Prof. Piotr Kurnatowski MD, PhD

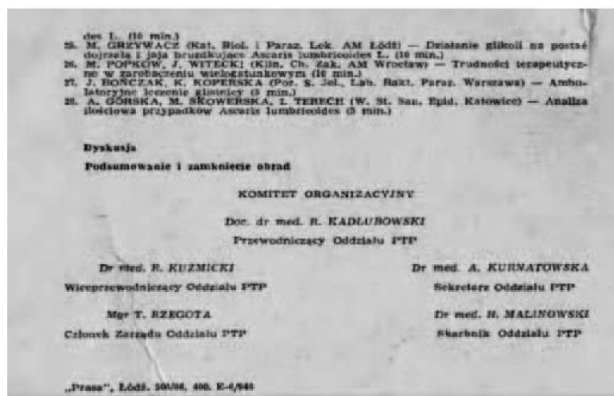
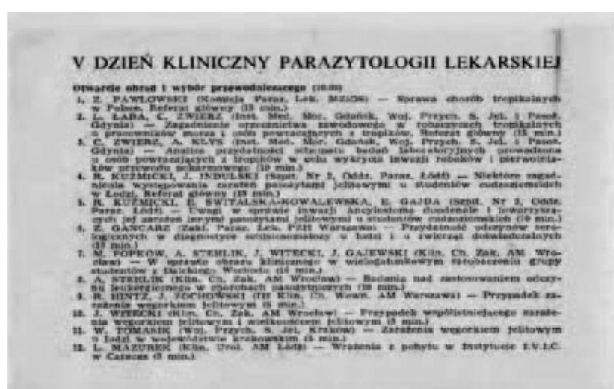
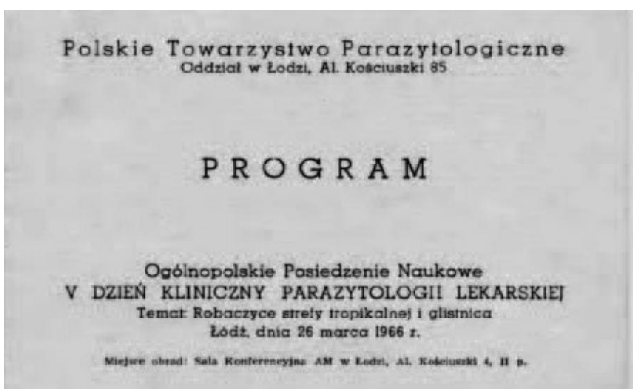


Fig. 4. V Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology „Tropical helminthoses and ascariasis” 26 March, 1966; the oldest survived program.

(present Head of the Chair and Department of Biology and Medical Parasitology), and Ryszard Kuźmicki MD, PhD (the long-standing Head of the Department of Parasitology of the Doctor Madurowicz Hospital in Lodz).

Inviting not only parasitologists, but also representatives of various fields of science, such as physicians of different specialty, pharmacists, laboratory diagnosticians and biologists to co-organize symposia, and also, since 1970, the inclusion of medical mycology as the subject matter of the *Clinical Days*, give the great variety of lecture and report subjects. This was the cause of constant, significant interest in successive meetings.

In the course of over 50 annual *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology* a total of 1678 lectures, reports and clinical cases were presented. The dominating topics were parasitological

(21 symposia), parasitological and mycological (23), mycological (6). The nine *Clinical Days* were devoted to the issues of therapy for parasitoses and mycoses (new medicines, side effects of antiparasitic and antifungal drugs), seven – to environmental factors of parasitic and fungal diseases, and five meetings concerned diagnostics procedures of parasitic diseases and mycoses. Frequently, the main theme of *Clinical Days* was related to one selected parasitosis (trichomonosis, toxoplasmosis). The *7th Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology* was held in 1968 in Zakopane together with a three-day 4th National Anti-Trichomonosis – Symposium, which had an international dimension; 94 papers and reports were presented, including 22 from abroad (Argentina, United States, the GDR, FRG, Estonia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Switzerland).

Topics of successive *Clinical Days*:

1962	I	Giardiasis, trichomonosis and helminthoses;
1963	II	Combating human taeniosis;
1964	III	Trichurosis;
1965	IV	Enterobiosis;
1966	V	Tropical helminthoses and ascariosis;
1967	VI	New antiparasitic drugs;
1968	VII	Biology of <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> and new drugs in trichomonosis;
1969	VIII	Human taeniosis;
1970	IX	Systemic mycoses and related issues;
1971	X	Achievements of medical parasitology;
1972	XI	Advances in parasitological diagnostics;
1973	XII	Issues of medical mycology;
1974	XIII	Trichinellosis – epidemiology, clinical and experimental trichinellosis
1975	XIV	Pathomorphology of parasitic invasions;
1976	XV	Advances in medical mycology;
1977	XVI	Preclinical and clinical evaluation of antiparasitic drugs;
1978	XVII	Treatment of fungal infections and other issues of medical mycology;
1979	XVIII	Adverse effects of antiparasitic and antifungal drugs;
1980	XIX	Current trichomonosis issues;
1981	XX	Progress of medical parasitology;
1982	XXI	Issues of medical mycology;
1983	XXII	Toxoplasmosis and other protozooses;
1984	XXIII	Recurrent invasions caused by protozoa, helminths and fungi;
1985	XXIV	Pathomorphology of parasitic invasions;
1986	XXV	Ecological aspects of parasitoses and mycoses;
1987	XXVI	Problems of parasitic diseases and tropical mycoses;
1988	XXVII	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> and toxoplasmosis; treatment of toxoplasmosis;
1989	XXVIII	Trichomonosis;
1990	XXIX	Ecological aspects of parasitic invasions;

1991	XXX	Advances in medical parasitology and mycology;
1992	XXX	Advances in the methodology of scientific research and documentation;
1993	XXXII	Allergoimmunological aspects of parasitic diseases and mycoses;
1994	XXXI II	Environmental factors of parasitic diseases and mycoses;
1995	XXXIV	Selected aspects of the treatment of parasitic diseases and mycoses;
1996	XXXV	Host-parasite/fungus system – favourable factors of infection;
1997	XXXVI	Environmental factors of parasitic diseases and mycoses;
1998	XXXVII	Multifocal invasions of parasites and/or fungi;
1999	XXXVIII	Antiparasitic and antifungal drugs. Their pharmacodynamics properties, activity <i>in vitro</i> and in the host system;
2000	XXXIX	Environmental factors of parasitic diseases and mycoses;
2001	XL	Parasitic and fungal diseases important in gynaecology and obstetrics;
2002	XLI	Current trends in diagnostics of parasitic and fungal diseases;
2003	XLII	Environmental factors of parasitic diseases and mycoses;
2004	XLIII	Parasites species <i>Trichomonas</i> and <i>Toxocara</i> and fungi as the etiological factor of diseases in humans and animals;
2005	XLIV	Advances in immunology, immunological reactions in the host-parasite/fungus system;
2006	XLV	Molecular diagnostics of parasitic diseases and fungal infections, new possibilities of treatment;
2007	XLVI	Fungal or parasitic invasions in oncological patients;
2008	XLVII	Toxoplasmosis – clinical course, diagnosis and therapy;
2009	XLVIII	Reservoirs of parasites and pathogenic fungi in the human population and the environment;
2010	XLIX	Infectious complications after transplantation of cells, tissues and organs;
2011	L	Parasitic diseases and mycoses - their increasing importance in medicine.

Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology were twice organized in cooperation with the Congresses of the Polish Parasitological Society (XIX Congress in Lodz – 2001; XX Congress in Warsaw – 2004). The Student Research Society at the Department of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Medical Academy/Medical University of Lodz, founded in 1962 (until 1989 the Society supervisor was Prof. A. Kurnatowska MD, PhD, later Aldona Ochecka MD, PhD) co-organized five *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology* joined with the nationwide students' conferences „Ecology of the Contemporary Man” (1990, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003) [2,3]. It is worth noting that students actively working in the Society, many of whom are present Professors of the Medical University in Lodz, were and are co-organizers of the subsequent *Clinical Days* symposia.

Organizing successive *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology* for over 50 years, the Lodz Division of the Polish Parasitological Society and the Department of Medical Biology and Parasitology cooperated with numerous institutions – commi-

tees, scientific societies and institutes. These were: Parasitology Commission of Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), Polish Parasitological Society, Polish Society of Pathologists, Polish Society of Epidemiologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases, Polish Pharmaceutical Society, Polish Society of Dermatology, Polish Gynaecological Society, Polish Medical Society, Polish Society of Anatomopathologists, Parasitology Department of the Doctor Madurowicz Hospital in Lodz, Commission for Trichomonosis of the Polish Parasitological Society, Pathophysiology Commission of the Committee on Parasitology of PAN, Trichinosis Commission of the Committee on Parasitology of PAN, Commission of Gastrointestinal Parasitoses of the Medical Section of the Polish Parasitological Society, Lodz Division Commission for Environmental Protection of PAN, Medical Parasitology Section of the Polish Parasitological Society, Tarchomin Pharmaceutical Work „POLFA”, Institute of Polish Mother Health Center in Lodz, Department of Dermatology and Pathomorphology Department of the Military



Fig. 5 V Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology „Tropical helminthoses and ascariosis”; from the newspaper „Dziennik Łódzki”, 26 March, 1966

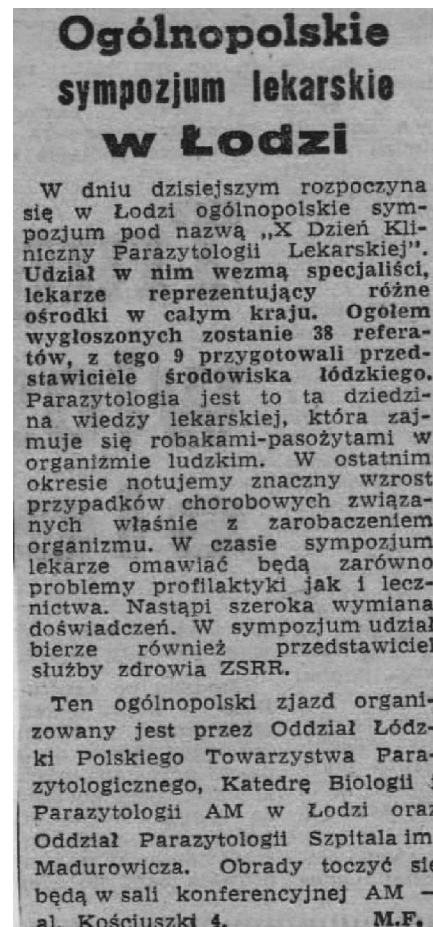


Fig. 6 X Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology „Achievements of medical parasitology”; from the newspaper „Głos Robotniczy” 20 March, 1971.

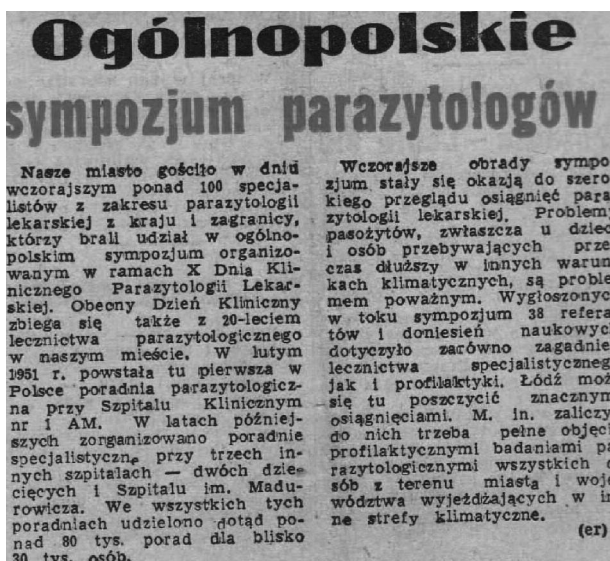


Fig. 7 X Clinical Day of Medical Parasitology „Achievements of medical parasitology”; from the newspaper „Dziennik Łódzki” 20 March, 1971.

Medical Academy in Lodz. We should also mention representatives of many Polish and international pharmaceutical companies who have supported the organization of meetings since 1967 and have enriched the range of information on new antiparasitic and antifungal drugs. Since 2006 our Symposia have been awarded education credits for records of physicians’ self-improvement; in 2011 we obtained significant 10 credits.

Ryszard Kuźmicki, MD, PhD was for many years the chronicler of *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology*. In 1991, summarizing thirty meetings, he posed the question: „And what will happen next ...?” [4]. Today we can answer that the words spoken by the President of Polish Parasitological Society Prof. K. Niewiadomska at the XIV Congress of the Society about the Symposium *Clinical Days of Medical Parasitology*: „[...] it is the oldest and most constantly accomplishing form of cooperation with the practicing physicians” are still valid.

References

- [1] Kuźmicki R. 1962. 40 lat pracy naukowej profesora doktora nauk medycznych Józefa Waclawa Grotta. *Wiadomości Parazytologiczne* 8: 407-412.
- [2] Wegner Z. (ed.) 1998. Parazytologia i parazytologia w Polsce. 50 lat działalności Polskiego Towarzystwa Parazytologicznego (1948–1998). Monografie Parazytologiczne No. 14. Polish Parasitological Society, Warsaw.
- [3] Kurnatowska A., Osińska E. 2004. Katedra Biologii i Parazytologii Lekarskiej w latach 1957–2001 Akademia Medyczna w Łodzi. In: *Dzieje parazytologii polskiej w latach 1945–2000*. (Eds. E. Lonc, B. Płonka-Syroka). Monografie Parazytologiczne No. 16. Polish Parasitological Society, Wrocław: 223-284.
- [4] Kuźmicki R. 1991. Trzydzieści Dni Klinicznych Parazytologii Lekarskiej. *Wiadomości Parazytologiczne* 37: 401-414.

Received 26 October 2011

Accepted 28 November 2011