

## Chronicle

*In searching for the Truth, he was always loyal, and he loved both people and animals. An animal's fate and a person's history were always close to him.*

*Rev. Professor W. Dyk*

*„The Naturalist between people and animals”  
Scientific Conference: „Environmental risks in human and animal health”  
Szczecin, 18 November 2011*

### Professor Alojzy Ramisz – into memory of his life and work



Professor Alojzy Ramisz was born on 18th June 1931 in Ruda Śląska. Even as a young boy, he was fascinated with the world of animals. Not surprisingly, when offered the chance to choose where to study for his degree, the Professor selected Veterinary Studies in Wrocław, where he graduated *cum laude* in 1955. His first position as a young veterinarian was in Tuchom, in the Bytów district. He was perceived as a good and reputable professional, and thanks to his candidness and friendliness, he quickly earned the respect and esteem of the Kaszubians. In 1956, under the supervision of Professor Gustaw Połuszyński, he began his doctoral studies in Parasitology and Invasive Diseases at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Wrocław Agricultural University. In 1961, after defending his thesis, entitled “Protozoa of *Leucocytozoon danilewsky*, 1890 in birds from

surroundings of Wrocław”, he was awarded the title of Doctor of Veterinary Sciences. The same year, he started work as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Parasitology and Invasive Diseases, Wrocław Agricultural University.

Although the Professor devoted his entire career to Parasitology, his career took him from Wrocław to Kraków, and then to Szczecin, with each period being distinct from the others. During his four years in Wrocław, under the supervision of Professor Zbigniew Kozar, he participated in complex studies on trichinellosis in Poland, and from 1958 to 1961, he also worked part time as a veterinary inspector in the Municipal Veterinary Centre.

In 1963, the Professor began a one-year postdoctoral course in the John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore (USA), during which he continued his academic development to obtain the title of Associate Professor. On 1st November 1965, he was appointed to head the Institution of Veterinary Hygiene in Kraków, where he stayed for the next twenty-five years. During his leadership, the institution underwent great changes, including a move to a new building on Brodowicza street. In 1966, as part of the DAAD Scholarship, he completed a two-month internship in the Institute of Zoonoses, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, under the supervision of Professor Schoop. Subsequently, in 1972, the Professor took part in two-week training courses at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, USA, and in 1978, at the Landwirtschaftliche Untersuchung und Forschungsanstalt, Germany.

In 1967, after presenting the dissertation entitled “Studies on nervous system of nematodes and tapeworms using histochemical method of active



Prof. Alojzy Ramisz, 1955

acetylcholinesterase” the Professor was awarded the title of Associate Professor.

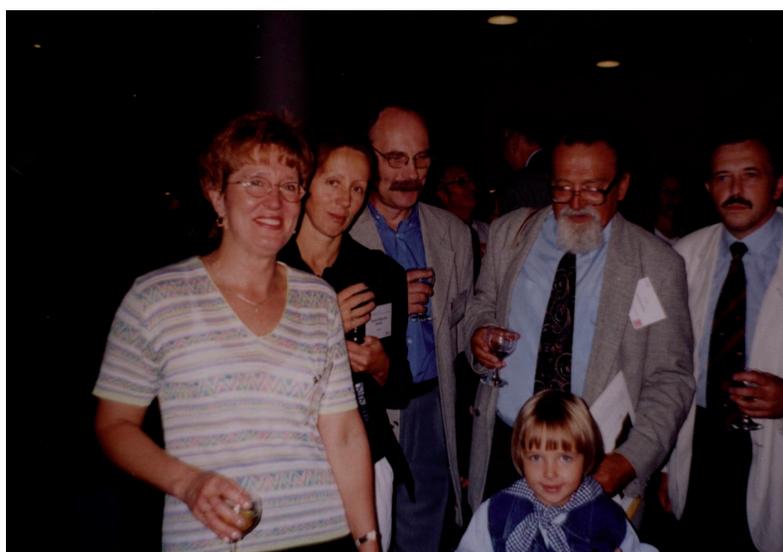
His broad view on Science and his foreign language skills allowed the Professor to make contact with foreign research centers. He knew how to bring his profession and passion together, and how to infect his co-workers with this approach. During this time, he promoted five doctors, whose works were based on Parasitology and implementation works. The Professor also

introduced studies on selenium deficiencies in animals, earning him the name “Celadon Professor” by the Highlanders he cooperated with (thanks to the Polish spelling of selenium). In 1976, in recognition of his scientific achievements, he was honored with the title of Professor.

During his time in Szczecin, the Professor worked in the former Faculty of Zootechnics in the Academy of Agriculture, where from 1991, he led the Department of Hygiene and Animal Breeding, and from 1996, the Department of Animal Hygiene and Prophylaxis, where he acted as Deputy Dean for the period 1996 to 1999. For many years, he also acted as an editor or member of a number of academic journals, including *Folia Universitatis Agriculturae Stetinensis seria Zootechnica*. He played an important role in the University and contributed to its development. He implemented eight national and international scientific programs, funded by KBN and the Swiss National Foundation concerning, among others, studies on the *Echinococcus multilocularis* tapeworm in red foxes in Poland. Under his supervision, many students graduated as Masters during this time, and four more doctoral students were promoted. Although the Professor retired on the October 2001, he continued to actively participate in the scientific and organizational life of the Faculty.

The research that the Professor undertook was broad in nature, and had both theoretical and practical aspects. The studies allowed parasitoses and fungal diseases in both wild and farm animals to be treated, and formed a better understanding of the roles played by selected elements (especially selenium) in these animals. He participated in devising new technologies for the production of drugs which are currently widely used in veterinary practice, such as Chitosan and Evetsel. In particular, his studies on trichinellosis lead to the development and introduction of the method of wild boar and pork meat digestion. In recognition of the Professor’s achievements, he was nominated a member of the International Commission of Trichinellosis, on which he served as a member of the Executive Committee from 1980 to 1984.

The Professor was an authority in Poland and abroad and cooperated or participated in many academic committees, including the European Commission for Coccidiosis (COST89) and the WHO Human and Animal Echinococcosis Research Group. For many years, the Professor chaired the Local Ethics Committee for Animal Experiments in



Prof. Alojzy Ramisz with his daughter and colleagues, 17th WAAVP Conference, Copenhagen 1999 (on left: Ewa Dzika, Bożena Moskwa, Jacek Lachowicz, Alojzy Ramisz and Ania, Aleksander Demiaszkiewicz)

Szczecin. He also authored fourteen documented research projects which were subsequently introduced into veterinary practice.

In recognition of his scientific, didactic and social achievements, the Professor received many state and branch distinctions: the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1986), the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2001), the National Education Committee Medal (2001), the Gold Award of the Association of Veterinary Doctors and Technicians (1985) and Man of Merit for the Academy of Agriculture of Szczecin (2001).

The list of the Professor's scientific achievements is a considerable one and is of great value: it includes 550 original papers, reviews, popular science articles and reports in local and foreign conferences. He was a good and demanding leader,

with wide theoretical and practical knowledge, which he willingly shared with his colleagues. He was always proud of our successes, and helped in moments of doubt. We will remember him as a kind and helpful person, very tactful and accurately observant. His baritone laugh and great sense of humour could defuse emerging conflicts. He always had faith in men, looked for their advantages and tried to motivate them to work creatively. Until his last days, the Professor remained full of enthusiasm, with many future plans. He died unexpectedly but will remain in our memory for always. He would certainly like us to remember him with a smile.

*Prof. dr hab. Jan Udała  
dr hab. Bogumiła Pilarczyk  
all photos from home archives of Ramisz family*