Prof. Irena Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz (1917-2015)

neé Ginsburg was one of the most eminent world experts in neurology and a pioneer of the Polish neurology. Together with the team she created, she was respected as a scientist at the top international level. Her studies, including molecular and genetic investigations, made essential contribution to the elucidation of etiopathogenesis of many diseases of the peripheral nervous system and muscles, especially spinal muscular atrophy, myasthenia or nucleopathy. Several thousands of citations of papers of Professor Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz and her research group are a proof of recognition of their scientific achievements. Professor Irena Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz was an ambassador of not only Polish neurology but the whole medicine. Her creativity was inspired especially by the ability to link clinic with the newest advances in biology.

She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów in 1941 and then had it recognized at the Jagiellonian University. She joined her entire scientific career with the Clinic of Neurology at the Medical Academy in Warsaw. She acquired the title of Medical Doctor in 1948 and *doctor habilitatus* in 1951. She had been the Head of the Chair and Clinic of Neurology since 1958 till 1989 when she retired. She was nominated a full professor. In 1989, Professor Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz began her work at the M. Mossakowski Institute of Experimental and Clinical Medicine (PA) where she organized the Clinical and Experimental Research Group for Neuromuscular Disorders.

She was the President of the Polish Neurological Society (PNS) in 1974 – 1984, stabilizing and strengthening its position among international scientific community and establishing the society as an expert body in many aspects of clinical practice. In recognition of her merits to the community, she was lauded with the title of an Honorary President of the PNS and an Honorary Member of the Polish Neuroscience Society. She was also elected the Vice-President of the World Neurological Federation, a founding member of the Muscle Research Group of this federation, and a member of the European Federation of Neurological Societies, In addition, she was a full member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, member of the Committee for Neurological Sciences of PAN, member of the Polish Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, president of the Scientific Council of the Polish Society for Control of Muscle Diseases, and a member of scientific councils of leading research centers: Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering PAN, Institute of Experimental and Clinical Medicine PAN and Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology in Warsaw.

Professor Irena Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz was a remarkable personality. She was not only gifted with an outstanding mind but also with exceptional culture, elegance and warmth. She was the model and the master for all postwar generations of Polish neurologists.

(*This note utilizes, among others, materials from the PNS*)

The most outstanding publications:

Charcot-Marie-Tooth type 4B is caused by mutations in the gene encoding myotubularin-related protein-2.
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The inner nuclear membrane protein emerin regulates beta-catenin activity by restricting its accumulation in the nucleus.
Markiewicz E, Tilgner K, Barker N, van de Wetering M, Clevers H, Dorobek M, **Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz I,** Ramaekers FC, Broers JL, Blankesteijn WM, Salpingidou G, Wilson RG, Ellis JA, Hutchison CJ.
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Fidziańska A, Toniolo D, **Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz I.**
J Neurol Sci. **1998** Jul 15;159(1):88-93. (**liczba cytowań 76** wg Web of Science Core Collection)

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J Neurol Sci. **2003** Jun 15;210(1-2):47-51. (**liczba cytowań 61** wg Web of Science Core Collection)

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Saifi GM, Szigeti K, Wiszniewski W, Shy ME, Krajewski K, **Hausmanowa-Petrusewicz I,** Kochanski A, Reeser S, Mancias P, Butler I, Lupski JR.
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