

Editorial



The First Japanese-Polish Symposium on Medicinal Applications of Molecular Biology was held in Łódź in December 9-11, 1995.

It was preceded by a visit of a Japanese delegation in Poland from (May 15-17, 1995) which was headed by Professor Kunio Yagi, Foreign Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, President of International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Professor Emeritus of University of Nagoya, Director of the Institute of Applied Biochemistry at Gifu, Japan. During the visit, it was mutually agreed that biotechnology and natural sciences which contribute to the development of modern biotechnology will be the focus of implementation of the Agreement on Collaboration which was signed by the Japanese Society for Promotion of Science and the Polish Academy of Sciences. The program of the May visit included two days of Scientific Sessions. One session was held in the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, PAS, in Warsaw, and the other one at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, PAS, in Poznań. In addition to the presentations of scientific activities by Directors of both Institutes, Prof. W. Ostojka-Zagórski and Prof. A. B. Legocki, representatives of

scientific communities from Poland presented the Japanese guests with their research and major achievements. The following professors contributed to these sessions: W. Ostrowski (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), E. Bartnik (University of Warsaw), A. Jerzmanowski (PAS, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Warsaw), A. Jaworski (University of Łódź), L. Kaczmarek (PAS, Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw), A. Leonowicz (M. Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin), A. Paszewski (PAS, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Warsaw), M. Żylicz (Gdańsk University), A. Polanowski (Wrocław University), W. Krzyżosiak (PAS, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Poznań), L. Lubiński (Pomeranian Medical Academy, Szczecin), M. Wit (PAS, Institute of Human Genetics, Poznań), W.T. Markiewicz (PAS, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Poznań), J. Boryski (PAS, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Poznań) and J. Rychlewski (Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center).

I would like to take the opportunity to express my words of gratitude to all the aforementioned colleagues, and to Prof. Chojnacki, Secretary of the Department of Biological Sciences of the PAS, for their great effort and support in the organization of the visit of our Japanese friends and for their presentations of our biotechnology and related scientific activities. To briefly summarize the May visit, it was mutually agreed that the first Japanese-Polish Symposium devoted to the *Medicinal Application of Molecular Biology* would be held in Poland. The following symposium will be held in Japan and its program will focus upon *Plant Biotechnology*. As the first part of this resolution the Symposium in Łódź was organized. Its program included 16 full lectures and 3 short lectures. The lectures were devoted to Gene Therapy, Ribozymes and Antisense Strategy, which are considered as the most appealing and challenging problems at the frontiers of Modern Biotechnology. All speakers, with one exception (Prof. J. Duszyński), kindly provided us with the manuscripts reflecting the content of their lectures. These are included in this issue of "Biotechnologia".

As it was pointed out by Professor Kunio Yagi, Co-Chairman of the Symposium, *in the year 2005, when Gene Therapy will be broadly implemented not only to combat diseases, but also to improve the quality of the life of elderly people, we will have the right to say that the first scientific symposium in Poland discussing the basic concept and future of Gene Therapy, was held ten years ago in Łódź within the framework of the Japanese-Polish collaboration.* Hopefully, all of us will live to witness the correctness of this prophetic opinion.

As a Co-Chairman of this Symposium, and the Chairman of the National Committee of Biotechnology, I would like to express my appreciation to all participants of the Symposium, and especially to our colleagues and guests from Japan, for their contribution to this scientific event. Let me also express the hope that our mission of promoting Biotechnology as the health-related Science will find many followers, both in Poland and Japan.

Wojciech J. STEC