



**Professor Bożena Chodynicka MD, PhD
(1942–2023)**

It is with great regret that we have received the news of the passing of Professor Bożena Chodynicka, MD, PhD on 9 September 2023, long-time head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of the Medical Academy in Białystok (MAB)/Medical University of Białystok (MUB), an outstanding scientist, academic teacher, and excellent physician.

Professor Bożena Chodynicka was born on 7 September 1942 in Białystok, Poland. She studied at the Faculty of Medicine of the then Medical Academy in Białystok, and received her medical degree in 1966. After medical studies, all her professional and scientific work was associated with the Department of Dermatology and Venereology of the MAB/MUB, where she worked until 2012 and passed all levels of her academic career from assistant to professor. She earned her first-degree specialization in dermatology and venereology in 1971, and the title of a specialist dermatologist and venereologist in 1978. She received her PhD degree in 1977 and her associate professor degree in 1991. A year later, she became the head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at the MAB/MUB and served as such until 2012.

From 1994 to 1996, she served as the vice dean of the MAB/MUB Faculty of Medicine. In 2000, she received the title of professor of medicine.

Professor Bożena Chodynicka was a member of the Polish Dermatological Society (PDS) since 1969. From 1991 to 2012 she was a member of the Board of Directors of this Society, and from 1994 to 2010 she also chaired the Board of the Białystok Branch of the PDS. In 2000, she became the president of the PDS Venereology Section; she held this position until 2012. In the same year, she was elected as Poland's representative to the Board of the European Section: International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) and served in this capacity until 2006. Professor Chodynicka also served as a consultant in the field of dermatology and venereology in the Białystok province, and in 2001–2002 she was a national consultant in the field of dermatology and venereology.

Professor Chodynicka was the supervisor of six doctoral dissertations. While she was the head of the Department, seven of her employees received associate professor degrees and two received the title of professor. She was the author and co-author of numerous research papers and many chapters in textbooks on dermatology and venereology for students and physicians. Her publications focused on sexually transmitted infections, Lyme disease, dermatologic oncology, psoriasis and allergic skin diseases. She was also an active member of the committees and scientific boards of many dermatological journals and chaired, organized and participated in many conferences and symposia related to dermatology and venereology.

Professor Chodynicka was repeatedly awarded for her scientific and teaching activities by the Rector of MAB/MUB.

She was also honoured with the Golden Cross of Merit. She retired in 2012. In 2016, during the 31st Congress of the Polish Dermatological Society in Wrocław, she received a diploma of honorary member of the PDS.

Professor Bożena Chodynicka was distinguished by her great diligence. She attached great importance to continuing education, and encouraged all assistants to continuously develop academically and professionally. She enjoyed every success of her alumni and their achievements. Privately, she was a cheerful, warm person with a sense of humour, collegial and family-oriented. She was interested in biographical books, music and photography. She loved traveling and animals. In her youth, she actively practiced skiing. She used to talk much about her grandchildren, of whom she was very proud. We will remember her as a wonderful person, an outstanding clinician, a great authority on sexually transmitted diseases, a committed teacher of many generations of physicians and an energetic organizer of dermatology conferences and courses.

Polish dermatology has suffered a great loss!

The Professor was buried on 6 September 2023 at the Farny Cemetery in Białystok. The funeral was attended by Family Members and Friends of the Deceased.

prof. dr hab. med. Iwona Flisiak