

Charakterystyka naukowego dorobku Instytutu Leków (1951-2002)

Characterization of scientific possession of Drug Institute (1951-2002)

SUMMARY

In 2001, the Drug Institute celebrated its 50th jubilee. This anniversary provides a good opportunity to describe the history of the Institute, and to analyse and sum up the developments in the field of drug research and testing in Poland. The state-managed Drug Institute, established in the early 1950s, was the first independent institution set up especially with view to drug-related research and drug testing. The beginnings of the Institute fell on hard times, during the reconstructing of the country after the destruction of World War II. The Institute founder was Prof. Piotr Kubikowski, a pharmacologist and lecturer, deputy rector of the Medical Academy in Warsaw. During his 18 years the Institute's of tenure as first director, foundations were laid for the Institute's organisational structure and research activity. The subsequent directors of the Institute continued the work of Prof. Kubikowski. The professional knowledge and individual personality of each of them influenced the directions of development of the Institute and its staff.

The first important task was to develop analytical methods for assessing drug quality, which was also connected with drug registration. This work involved both chemical and biological research. Rising drug quality standards and an expanding range of drugs necessitated the development of modern research methods complying with those applied abroad. In the field of chemistry, instrumental analysis methods were developed, while in the field of biology, tests were devised not only to assess the quality, but also the safety of drug application. Care was taken to assure both drug effectiveness and safety.

Later the Institute's divisions expanded their scope of activity to basic chemical and biological research. The Institute was gradually equipped with modern apparatus, often very rare, enabling its employees to conduct both research and assay work meeting world standards. Since 1971, the Drug Institute has been authorised to confer Doctor of Pharmacy degrees. The Drug Institute's activities also embrace education. It organises specialised courses and lectures in collaboration with the Postgraduate Medical Training Centre.

During the fifty years, the Drug Institute has organised many scientific conferences devoted to contemporary health problems. The Institute co-operated closely with the medical world, including health service environments and scientific societies. The Institute's employees constitute the core of the group of authors preparing monographic articles for the Polish Pharmacopoeia.

While working at the Institute, employees have had the opportunity to upgrade their professional qualifications and obtain scientific degrees. Many of its employees hold the degree of Doctor and Doctor Habilitatus, and there are also many Professors. The subject-matter of their scientific papers, and dissertations have stemmed from their work at the Institute. Results of their research have significance both in the field of theoretical and applied science in the field of drug research.

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