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I Fell to My Knees



Focus on Medicine

A Healthier Start to Life Without prenatal diagnostics, some children would die in the womb or be born seriously ill – insists Prof. Mirosław Wielgoś. **4**



Insight Linguistics

Capturing the Language of the Deaf

Often marginalized and neglected, Polish Sign Language (PLM) has finally come under serious linguistic scrutiny – explains Dr. Paweł Rutkowski. **60**



Briefly Speaking

Learning by a Whisker

A damaged brain can create new “action strategies” that allow it to recover lost functions – says neurobiologist Prof. Małgorzata Kossut. **54**

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FROM THE EDITORS

BOOSTING WOMEN'S PRESENCE

The Polish Academy of Sciences has for long devoted much attention to the problem of the insufficient level of representation of women among its bodies and members. There are more and more female researchers nowadays, to be sure, especially in biological fields, medicine, humanities, and social sciences, but also increasingly in the technical and hard sciences as well. But there are still not many women among the top echelons of science. At the General Assembly meeting in December, at which new members were elected, the members of the Academy decided time had come to put theory into practice. After the vote, the Academy had nine more female members. While their numbers are still not large (the share of female members increasing from just under 5% to more than 7%), the move is a good step towards a more deserving appreciation of women's achievements and strength in science. One might say we have begun a long process of pushing through the "glass ceiling," of opening up the Academy to female scientists and to world standards.

JERZY DUSZYŃSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

We congratulate the new members of the Academy:

- **Prof. Hanna Bogucka** Department of Wireless Communications, Poznań University of Technology
- **Dr. Agnieszka Chacińska**, Laboratory of Mitochondrial Biogenesis, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology
- **Prof. Krystyna Chojnicka** Department of the History of Political and Legal Doctrines, Jagiellonian University
- **Prof. Bożena Kamińska-Kaczmarek** Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology
- **Prof. Maria Magdalena Konarska** Centre of New Technologies, University of Warsaw
- **Prof. Małgorzata Kossowska** Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University
- **Prof. Czesława Rosik-Dulewska** Department of Land Protection, University of Opole
- **Prof. Grażyna Stochel** Faculty of Chemistry, Jagiellonian University
- **Prof. Anetta Undas, MD** Department of Cardiosurgery, Anesthesiology, and Experimental Cardiology, Medical College, Jagiellonian University



JAKUB OSTAŁOWSKI



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PKiN, pl. Defilad 1,
00-901 Warsaw, Poland
academia@pan.pl

www.academia.pan.pl

www.scienceonline.pl

Subscription:

academia.prenumerata
@pan.pl

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Language Version

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