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In the Beginning...

ACADEMIA magazine has come into being at the initiative of Professor Andrzej B. Legocki, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Nauk - PAN). This publication is the Academy's way of giving Poles living abroad, foreign researchers and individuals interested in Polish science what they have repeatedly requested: up-to-date information about the Academy's projects and activities. *ACADEMIA* will present easy-to-read reports on achievements that PAN's research institutes are proud of, and on current topics and areas of expertise that members of PAN's scientific and task-force committees are devoting themselves to. Our magazine will also supply news about significant research successes enjoyed by members of the Academy, as well as outstanding achievements chalked up by young researchers at PAN institutes.

Our articles are conveniently grouped under several headings: **Focus On** – extensive articles on concrete research topics, centered around each issue's central theme, **Research in Progress** – a section that presents short reports on the most recent and most interesting studies now underway at PAN institutions; interested readers can continue on by exploring the selected bibliography, or by contacting the authors directly via the given email addresses, **Briefly Speaking** – featuring interviews with interesting representatives of the research community, including prominent figures from the Academy's partner institutions abroad, **Short Circuit** – a prominent researcher's personal view on how research is done, on how the scientific community relates to other groups, or on the place that science holds within society, **Insight** – profiles and accomplishments of PAN's institutions, **Gallery** – a look at some of the beautiful images that research quite frequently produces: sometimes from under the microscope, sometimes from distant space, **Highlights** – a calendar of the most interesting recently-held or upcoming PAN events, particularly those of particular significance for the Academy and the research community in general.

One aspect that distinguishes *ACADEMIA* from PAN's other publications is the greater extent to which it speaks to readers via images: we believe that by using snapshots, drawings, and graphs to portray sites, events, and scientific breakthroughs, we can frequently enable readers to grasp the heart of the matter quickly, and leave them with longer-lasting impressions.

ACADEMIA'S editors would like to ask the members and staff of the Polish Academy of Sciences and its committees to assist us in furthering the *ACADEMIA* project, and to stay in touch with us about future issues. It is only thanks to your research, after all, that we have this opportunity to write about the beautiful world of science.

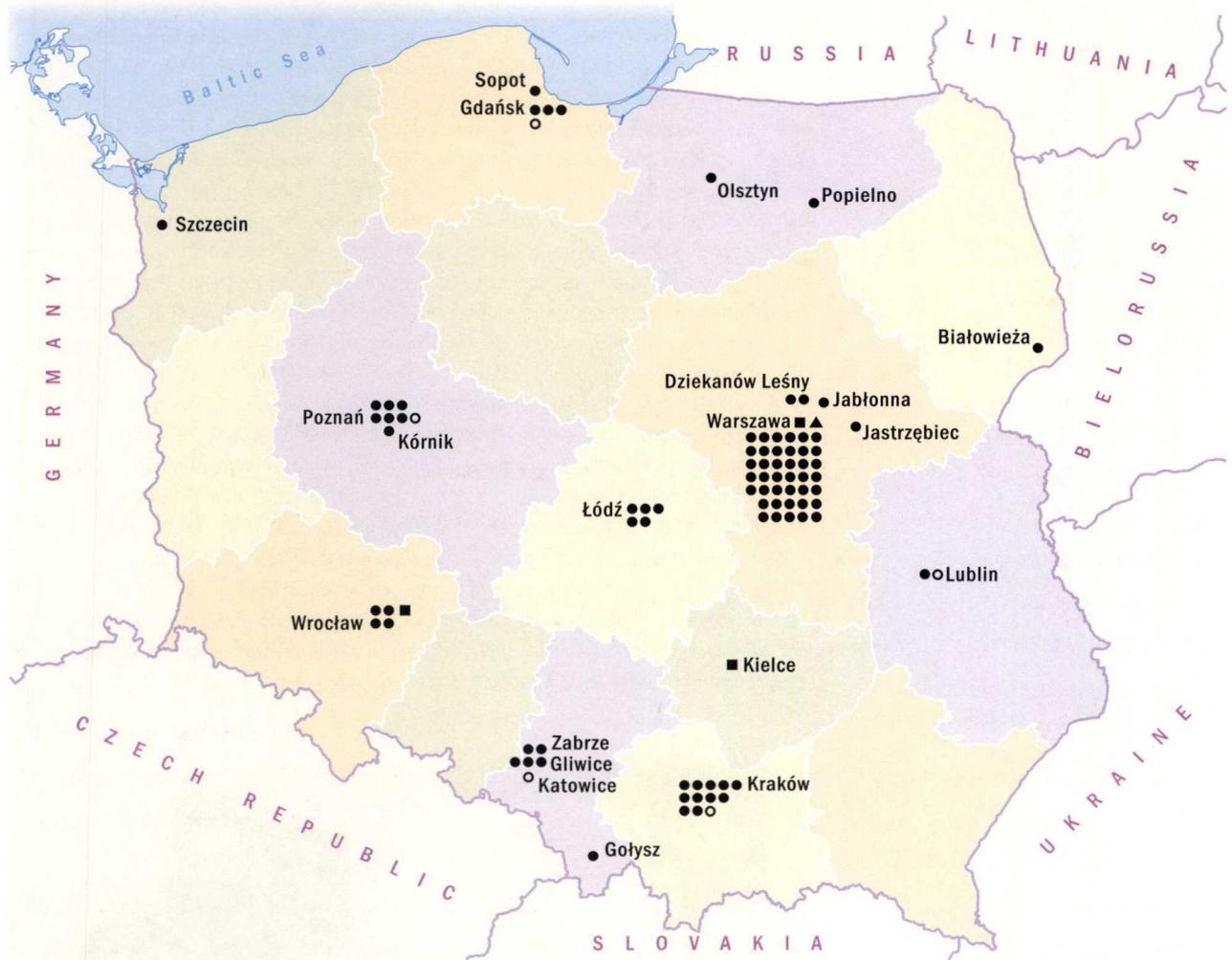
We would also like to encourage readers to send us comments and suggestions about our magazine's form and content. These will help us to improve and perfect *ACADEMIA*, so that it can better live up to what both its readers and authors expect.

JAN STRELAU, Editor-in-Chief

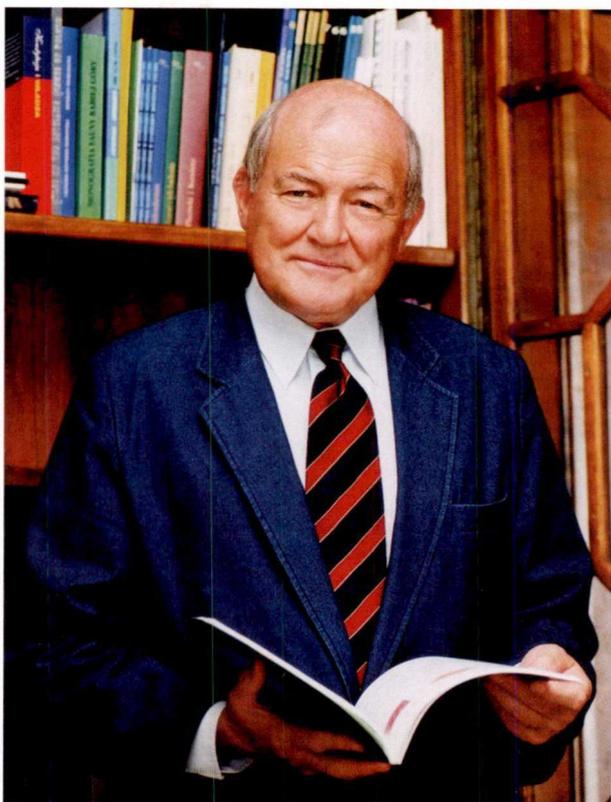


Hanna Musiał

Scientific Units and Branches of the Polish Academy of Sciences



- ▲ Headquarters
- Branches
- Scientific units
- Shared scientific units



Krzysztof Malinowski

Science - the Key to the Future

There are two predominant ways through which science cultivates our awareness of the value and necessity of knowledge. They are: the never-ending expansion of the frontiers of the world we experience, and the creation of humanistic foundations and educational needs of the society. The same two objectives lie at the roots of the Polish Academy of Sciences which, being a public-service institution, is determined to ensure that all activities it pursues meet the highest standards.

Recognising the great influential power of a competent and efficient publishing policy, the Polish Academy of Sciences has embarked on the launching of a new magazine addressed to the whole scientific community, in a belief that it will be of particular interest to young researchers at the beginning of their scientific path as well as all those

who are interested in science, its achievements and prospects. Our main aim is to provide information on scientific discoveries and phenomena that determine the rhythm of scientific life in Poland and other countries.

The times we are now living in abound in important events and transformations that will be surely influencing the directions of Poland's future development. Here again, the responsibility of science is to shape and promote attitudes for which the truth and human well-being are a primary value.

I hope that ACADEMIA will be well received by the scientific and academic community. I also believe that it will make an essential contribution to the popularisation of Polish science in Poland and abroad.

Professor ANDRZEJ B. LEGOCKI
President of the Polish Academy of Sciences