

Professor Dr. Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos – In Honor of Her Birthday

In the cozy space of this Special Issue of the Journal of Planar Chromatography – Modern TLC (JPC), graciously provided by Professor Bernd Spangenberg as host, we – the friends and disciples of Professor Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos – gather now to celebrate her 65th birthday anniversary. This is an exquisite place for this celebration, as Monika's entire professional career has focused on the theory and practice of liquid chromatography, with planar chromatography always in the very center not only of her careful attention, but in the first instance, of her positive emotions.

It seems that chromatography has been, so to say, *a priori* inscribed in Monika's fate in more than one fortunate sense. Firstly, she comes from Poland, the country where chromatography was launched over one hundred years ago by the pioneer of this separation technique, Mikhail Tswett. Secondly, she comes from Lublin, a stronghold of Polish chromatography for the long decades after World War II. Thirdly, she is the daughter of late Professor Andrzej Waksmundzki of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University of Lublin, the founding father of the Polish postwar school of chromatography. Last, but not the least, she also is the niece of late Professor Stefan Banach, one of the most brilliant mathematicians of all times, and this eminent lineage no doubt adds to her inclination toward the exact sciences.

Professor Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos was born on May 23rd, 1950, in Lublin, Poland. In the years 1968–1973, she studied chemistry at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in her home city, and in 1973, she graduated there with the honors MSc degree. Soon after graduation, she was offered her first position at the Chair of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Lublin Medical University, and under the demanding supervision of Professor Edward Soczewiński, a renowned theoretician of chromatography, she commenced preparation of her doctoral dissertation on “Optimization of the reversed phase partition chromatography systems”. In 1980, she was granted a PhD degree based upon that thesis, and in the school year 1982–1983, she spent nine fruitful months as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry, the University of Vienna, Austria, working with late Professor J.F.K. Huber, a chromatography expert of high repute. In 1999, Professor Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos was granted a DSc degree based upon a thesis on “Chromatographic systems of different selectivity and an application thereof to the analysis and isolation of biologically active compounds”, and ultimately, in 2007, she was distinguished with the Professor of Pharma-

ceutical Sciences title by the President of the Republic of Poland.

Over the years, all the professional career of Monika as a researcher and an academic teacher has been connected with the Lublin Medical University. In 2002, she was nominated as an associate professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy there, and in 2010, she became full professor. In 2003, she was appointed a head of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry, and in 2008, she took the post of a vice-dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, which she now holds for a second consecutive term. As an academic teacher, Monika has given many different lecture and laboratory courses on general and inorganic chemistry and on instrumental analysis as well. She contributed several chapters to a very well received two-volume medical university textbook on Analytical Chemistry (in Polish) and supervised over 50 MSc and 8 PhD theses. The majority of these theses were focusing on various different applications of liquid chromatography to solving chemical and/or pharmaceutical problems. For her outstanding service to the academic community, Monika has been distinguished with numerous awards on a local and national level.

The very dynamic activity of Monika in the field of separation science is far better known to a wide chromatographic public as attendants of chromatographic symposia and contributors to and readers of chromatography books and journals than her intimate classroom contacts with successive generations of carefully educated pharmacy students, yet the highlights of this scientific activity should also briefly be acknowledged. Being a chemist wholeheartedly dedicated to separation science and, at the same time, a staff member of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Monika has devoted much of her endeavor to adapting liquid chromatography (and in the first instance, its planar variant) and to studying chemical composition and biological activity of medicinal plants. Currently, this subject is in the very center of an otherwise broad spectrum of her scientific interests. She has authored and coauthored ca. 200 research papers, mostly in the high impact factor and internationally recognized scientific journals dedicated to chromatography, phytochemistry, analytical chemistry, pharmacy, and other areas of chemical research.



She has contributed a good number of the invited (and mostly review) papers and also encyclopedia entries, *e.g.*, to the Journal of Chromatography A and B, the Journal of Liquid Chromatography & Related Technologies, and the Encyclopedia of Chromatography. Among the most powerful boosts given by her to liquid chromatography, in the first place, three book monographs that she has coedited for the prestigious Chromatographic Science Series of CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group should be mentioned, namely, *Thin Layer Chromatography in Phytochemistry* (with Professor Joseph Sherma and Professor Teresa Kowalska in 2008), *High Performance Liquid Chromatography in Phytochemical Analysis* (with Professor Joseph Sherma in 2010), and *Thin Layer Chromatography in Drug Analysis* (with Professor Łukasz Komsta and Professor Joseph Sherma in 2013). Moreover, Monika serves the chromatographic community with her exquisite understanding of challenges of the separation science as an Editorial Board member of the Journal of Planar Chromatography – Modern TLC and Editor for Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry of Acta Chromatographica, and also as an active reviewer for a vast number of the internationally renowned chromatographic, pharmaceutical, phytochemical, and analytical chemistry journals. Her recent initiative has been launching of an extremely well organized and well received bi-annual conference on the plant as the source of research material, traditionally held in October in Lublin, and enjoying vast international participation.

Professor Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos escapes all straightforward characteristics, for which reason, it is hardly possible to sketch her multidimensional inner profile. She has gotten a solid musical education, and over the years, her exquisite informal piano recitals have energized many chromatographic conference parties at home and abroad. Besides, she experiences deep affinity toward the rocky mountain region of her ancestors, in European geography known as the Tatra Mountains, which is located in the highest part of the Carpathian range, just off

the Polish–Slovak border. Monika's deep feeling for that eagle nest region with its exuberant folklore expresses itself in many different ways, yet the most significant one is perhaps her continuous presidency of the society dedicated to the conservation of spiritual heritage of the inhabitants of the Tatra Mountains. Another precious feature of Monika is her wholehearted engagement in academic level teaching, and she has proved herself as a demanding yet very empathetic mentor, always surrounded by the young benevolent chromatography adepts, willing to profit from her profound knowledge. Yet above all, Monika is a gentle and warm family person. Together with her husband, Professor Mieczysław Hajnos, a scientist employed in the Institute of Agrophysics, the Polish Academy of Sciences, in Lublin, they preside over the three generations of a loving Hajnos family, and their house always blinks like a sea lantern on turbulent waters of hasty modern life, tirelessly offering shelter, good company, excellent food, and the infinite warmth of a proper family hearth to the friends from all over the world (of course, the chromatography friends included). The toughest moment in Monika's biography was the sudden decease in a 2010 car crash of her beloved son and, at the same time, her greatly talented research companion and coworker, Dr. Michał Hajnos.

In the virtual space of this Special Issue of the Journal of Planar Chromatography – Modern TLC, a group of Professor Monika Waksmundzka-Hajnos' friends has come together from various different countries and two continents to contribute original research papers from the field of planar chromatography, which are meant as a hopefully adequate present for our dear birthday person. Dear Monika, we wish you many happy returns, new successes in developing planar chromatography, and an everlasting affection of your near and dear.

In the name of all Contributors,
Teresa Kowalska and Łukasz Cieśla,
Co-editors of the Special Issue