

THE DEVELOPMENT OF UROLOGY IN STETTIN/SZCZECIN. HOW POLITICAL CHANGES INFLUENCED MEDICINE

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Introduction

The history of the hospitals in Stettin goes back over 200 years. Urology has now existed in Szczecin, with interruptions, for 85 years. The first Department of Urology was set up in 1919 and existed till 1935. The chief of the department was Dr. Felix Hagen. The present, academical Urology Clinic was founded nearly half a century ago. Its founder and first head doctor was Prof. Alfons Wojewski.

Its birth, its slow beginnings, and its struggle for full autonomy and separation from surgery were laborious and difficult. It was only the combination of the political changes in Europe, the personality and engagement of Prof. Wojewski, and the helpful attitude of the authorities of the Pomeranian Medical Academy (PAM) that finally brought about the creation of an independent Urology Clinic in Szczecin.

In 1733 the population of Stettin (Szczecin) was 12 600 and to all intents and purposes the city had no real hospital. The first hospital was built in 1734, comprising eight rooms and 30 beds. In 1840, a new municipal hospital was built in Wallstrasse, this one with 162 beds (Fig. 1).

The growth of the city's population (90192 in 1880), the rapid advances in medical sciences, the increasing understanding of the importance of hygiene, and finally the demand for health care have subsequently led to the erection of a modern 353-bed hospital complex at Apfelallee, Pommerensdorf, (Pomorzany) which was officially opened in 1879 (Fig. 2).

The first director of the new hospital (1878-1883) was Dr. Georg Wegner (born 1843), well known surgeon, scientist, and pathologist. He resigned in 1883, as a result of a number of differences of opinion with the municipal authorities.

For the next six years (1883-1889) the post of the hospital's director was held by Dr. A. W. Schultze, a very good scientist and theoretical surgeon. Schultze had a sceptical attitude to general therapy, and especially to surgical therapy. In 1889 he left for Freiburg to devote himself to exclusively scientific work.

It was only the appointment of Prof. Karl August Schuchardt (1856-1901) as the new medical director that raised the rank of the Municipal Hospital in Szczecin and the entire province. Schuchardt modernized the operating room and introduced aseptic procedures. In addition to attending to medical services covering a broad spectrum of operations in the sectors of surgery, gynaecology, and urology, he engaged in scientific work. He was a

known and respected figure in the world of German surgery. He published a number of papers in the field of surgery, gynaecology and urology [2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13].

Being well aware of the difficulties of managing a single-department hospital combining the departments of surgery and internal medicine, to the disadvantage of both, in 1893 Schuchardt finally persuaded the administration to separate off 160 internistic beds. In view of the lack of funds, he gave one-third of his own salary to Prof. Ernst Neisser (born 1863), the first head doctor of the Department of Internal Diseases. The city authorities expressed their agreement to this "donation". In 1896 the hospital acquired its first X-ray equipment [2, 5, 10].

The development of the urinary tract diagnostics

The invention and the production by Maximilian Nitze of the first cystoscope to be used in practice opened new possibilities for diagnostics of the urethra and bladder, and gave birth to the new medical discipline of urology. But ist not quite true.

The diagnostics progress due to the introduction of endoscopy and of radiology was fundamental and allowed not only a more accurate study of the bladder, but also the diagnosis of its condition, which had hithero been impossible, except for extreme cases of renal disease and sickness of the upper urinary passages. Surgery made great strides with the progress of antisepsis and asepsis and of anaesthesiology. Afterwards endoscopic surgery came to the fore.

In Stettin, Neisser recognized the value of urology and, already at the beginning of the last century, delegated an assistant to attend to endoscopic examination in urological patients. The number of these examinations increased considerably during the first world war, resulting in the creation of a military urology department headed by a specialist.

After the end of the war there was a steady growth in the number of patients coming from the surgical and internistic departments who required urological check up, and the situation eventually forced the hospital administration to provide a special ward devoted exclusively to urology. There the urological consulting hours were conducted on a regular basis, on specified days of the week.

As time went by, the situation deteriorated. The equipment became obsolete, and the doctors involved did not know how to use modern urological instrumentation. There was also a lack of continuity in patient management and in documentation of the course of the patients' clinical pictures. One major problem was that there was no permanent head of this small facility [5, 9, 14].

The first urological department (1919-1935)

The advances in medical science, and also the discovery and introduction of new diagnostic methods and therapeutic possibilities, led to an increased demand for properly qualified specialists. This was understood by the directors of the hospital at that time, Prof. Ernst Neisser, an internist, and Prof. Heinrich Haeckel, a surgeon, and they supported the creation of a separate urological department. A ward of 25-30 beds was duly opened on the 1st March 1919, headed by a 39 years old "specialist in urinary, bladder, and kidney diseases", Dr. Felix Hagen from Berlin (Fig. 3).

Dr Felix Hagen (1880-1962) was born in Berlin. (Fig. 4). He became his education in Berlin and became urologist in 1908. He worked over few years as a Head of Urological Ward In Ost Hospital in Berlin and in his private urological practice in Berlin. During

World War I, he was a head of the urological Ward of the field, military hospital in the Balkans [5, 6, 8, 18].

The remit of this new department was to carry out examinations and differential diagnostics in internistic patients, and in patients from the urological surgery sector check up and evaluation for surgery. Surgical urology was the responsibility of the surgical department.

The remaining cases, requiring urological experience such as practice in transurethral interventions and diseases of the bladder, were treated in the new urology department.

At first the collaboration between the two large departments went very well. The departments complemented each other. Subsequently, however, the working system laid down for the urological department could not be implemented in full. The continuing increase in the numbers of patients treated at the department, reaching 448 in 1928, required each day as much as four hours of the urologist's time. On top of this, new diagnostic methods of the upper urinary tract were introduced all the time. First came the Indigo-carmin dye-test (chromocystoscopy), then ascending pyelography, later pneumoradiography. A favourite method of demonstration of the ureters and the pyelocalyceal system was injection of oxygen into the ureter (the so-called ascending or retrograde pyelography with oxygen, pneumopyelography). Later on excretion urography was also carried out, in more than 80 examinations per year. Comparison of the test results was of major significance in the diagnostics of lithiasis, hydronephrosis, urinary retention with infections and in pregnant women, and in the many cases of urinary system tuberculosis.

Dr. Hagen presented the results of the clinical observations at medical conferences and published clinical papers in medical periodicals [2, 5, 7, 8, 9] (Fig. 5).

The spectrum of the treatments

Apart from performing diagnostic tests, doctor Hagen often removed bladder stones **transurethral**(?). Lithotripsy was carried out in 50 patients aged between 10 and 81, and all the patients survived. The most common intervention was treatment of urinary tract inflammations. Before beginning treatment, an important task of the urologist was to gain control of urinary system tuberculosis. According to the hospital records 10% of the men and 2.5% of the seen women with urinary tract infections were suffering from tuberculosis. Tuberculosis patients were usually referred for nephrectomy, epididymectomy and castration or transferred to Tuberculosis Hospital with 270 beds in Hohenkrug (Zdunowo), a suburb of Stettin (Szczecin) erected in 1915. Head: Professor Hermann Braeuning from 1915-1945 [2, 5, 10,].

The main tasks of the urologist in the treatment of complicated urinary tract infections were drainage of retained urine and rinses with disinfectant solutions. The conservative therapy used in the pre-antibiotics era mostly was unable to effect a cure. Each year approximately 600 rinses of the renal pelvis were performed.

Some 50 to 75 patients were treated for "prostatic hypertrophy". Out of this number, 10-15% of the patients had cancer of the prostate. Patients with "benign prostatic hypertrophy" who could be operated on were immediately directed to the surgical department. Patients in a very poor general condition with urinary retention, infection, uraemia, and cardiovascular problems were treated conservatively. Most of them were thus successfully restored to a state in which they were sufficiently fit to undergo surgery,

but nevertheless in certain cases the condition was so serious that the patients could no longer be helped.

The results were as a rule better in the treatment of superficial papillomatous bladder tumours. In invasive carcinomas, however, only a temporary improvement of the symptoms could be achieved by transurethral interventions.

Very good treatment results were also regularly obtained in the so-called neurofunctional disturbances of the urinary system.

Summing up the first 10 years of the department's activity, Dr. Hagen emphasized that, in spite of the limitations of independent work, economically unfavourable times, shortage of funds, inflation, and poverty of the population, the young department could boast significant positive achievements and was fulfilling its tasks very well. Its development was considerably helped along by the unflagging support it was receiving from Prof. Neisser [9].

The hospital at Pommerensdorf (Pomorzany) up to the end of the Second World War

From the very beginning of its existence, i.e. from the year 1879, the Municipal Hospital was constantly in a process of extension and rebuilding. A hospital base was set up, new departments and clinics were being opened. In 1913 radium (2 X 25mg elements) was purchased from the United States, which because of the state of war was delivered with a long delay, in 1916. The radium was used for radiation of some skin, lips cancers, uterine carcinomas, haemangiomas and scar keloids. In 1937 the number of the hospital beds increased up to 1004 [2, 4, 5, 10].

As already mentioned, the official existence of an independent urology department with 30 beds, first headed by Dr. F. Hagen, dates back to March 1919. In October 1935 the position of the head of the urological department was terminated, and urology was incorporated in the department of surgery. As an auxiliary, diagnostic department, de facto dependent on the departments of surgery and internal medicine, urology could not develop properly and survive. In opinion of the Dr. Hagen's daughter, Mrs Brigitte von Grumbkow the reasons for father's dismissal were political. Dr. Hagen wasn't a member of the NSDAP. Dr Hagen worked till 1945 in his own urological practice in Stettin. The second urologist in Stettin was Dr. Karl Wendorff. He worked in his own practice too.

During the World War II, between 1939 and 1945, as during the World War I, a field hospital was set up in the Municipal Hospital at Pommerensdorf in Stettin [2, 3, 6, 10, 18, 19].

In 1935 the number of hospitalized patients was 924 per day, rising in 1940 to 1152 and the number of hospitalised patients per years was 11959 and 14790 respectively [Verwaltungsberichte 1935 and 1940]. The population of Stettin grew fast, from 234 075 in 1919 and reached in 1939 374 017, and in 1993 417 700 inhabitants.

The last head of the surgical department was Professor Karl Vogeler from 1931 till 1945). He was a pupil (**assistant**) of prof. August Bier (1861-1949). He has written a monography about his mentor: „*August Bier-Leben und Werk*“. („*August Bier-his life and achievement*“). After the war he took over a chief of Surgical Clinic in Flensburg.

In Februar 1945, Dr. Felix Hagen and his wife Grete Anna, née Ziegenhorn (1891-1971) have escaped from Stettin to Erfurt. In Erfurt, he worked in his own private urological practice till his death. He died on 30 July 1962 in Erfurt. The tomb of the

Hagen's wife family can still be visited in the Central Cemetery (Hauptfriedhof) in Erfurt. His daughter Brigitte von Grumbkow lives till now in Düsseldorf, Germany [1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 18, 19, 20].

THE POSTWAR PERIOD

The end of the World War II created a new political situation in Europe. Stettin now Szczecin and the Western Pomerania region became now part of Poland. During the war the Municipal Hospital at Pommerensdorf (Pomorzany) and other Stettin's hospitals were almost completely destroyed.

Following the end of the war, in spite of the great difficulties with both premises and personal, the Polish authorities set up a health service catering for a catchment area comprising the city of Szczecin and the entire province. One of the elements in the development of Szczecin was the establishment of centres of higher education, something that had not existed in the city before the war. In 1948 the Pomeranian Medical Academy (PAM) was created on the basis of a resolution of the Council of Ministers, which to this day plays an important role in the health care provided in the entire Pomeranian territory. From a large provincial city in the prewar period, Szczecin has developed into a flourishing academic centre.

The first ten postwar years, Urology in Szczecin (Stettin) was functioning within the framework of General Surgery in few Szczecin's Surgical Departments. In 1948, on the basis of a Red Cross hospital situated in Unii Lubelskiej Street (Am Deutschen Berg) the First Surgical Clinic was formed (Head: Prof. Tadeusz Sokolowski, 1887-1965). At that time one of the best surgeon in Poland. During the war he was a Professor at „Polish University in Scotland“. Minor to moderately extensive urological operations were carried out at this clinic, while for major urological surgery and in more difficult cases the patients were referred to a Urological Clinic in Warsaw [1, 4, 10, 11, 29, 30].

From Urological Ward to the Urological Clinic in Szczecin (Stettin)

In August 1955 a 30-beds Urological Ward was opened at Pomorzany (Pommerensdorf), forming part of the Second Surgical Clinic of the PAM, State Clinical Hospital No. 2 (Head: Prof. Rafal Wladyslaw Heftmann, 1908-1977). The head doctor of the new Ward was Dr med. Alfons Antoni Wojewski (1912-1992) (Fig. 6), a surgeon and urologist from Gdansk (Danzig). The Urological Ward's working conditions were difficult, with limited materials and equipment and without its own operating rooms. In spite of these problems, however, increasing numbers of patients were being treated. The Urological Ward could hold 40-45 patients.

The First Surgical Clinic of the Pomeranian Medical Academy (PAM), State Clinical Hospital No. 1, gave the Urological Department a quantity of medical equipment and instruments donated by UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration). The material came from American field hospitals on the western front, closed down at the end of the war. This equipment satisfied the basic requirements of the young department. The Clinic had cystoscopes, resectoscopes, lithotriptors, and diathermy equipment. The radiology department of the hospital, was not large but reasonably well fitted out, ensured effective - and at that time high-quality - radiographic diagnostics of the urinary system.

In the beginning 1960s Professor Wojewski constructed a simple apparatus for taking serial X-rays. He was the first in Szczecin to carry out, personally, transcutaneous abdominal aortographic examinations (angiography of the kidneys, renovasography) by the Don Santos method in patients with suspected kidney tumours.

One year after habilitation examination of Dr Wojewski, in 1962, the Urological Ward was transformed into an independent Urological Clinic with 62 beds. At that time it was a fifth academical Urological Clinic in Poland. Hard work and iron will helped Prof. Wojewski to organize the Clinic right from the start, quickly raising it to the level of a modern scientific, teaching, and service facility [17, 29, 30].

Biographical details

Alfons Antoni Wojewski was born on 19th May 1912 in a small village Goscicin (Gossentin) west of Gdansk (Danzig, formerly part of Prussia), as the 9th child of the landowners Joseph and Maria née Willa. His education began in primary school in Bolszewo (Bohlschau). Hereafter he attended the Gimnazjum Klasyczne [Classical High School] in Wejherowo, where he attained a secondary school certificate in 1932. In 1933 he enrolled at the Medical Faculty of the University of Poznan and graduated in 1939. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War he started his physician work at general Hospital in Gdynia (Gdingen) and in June 1940 he became an assistant at the Department of Surgery of the District Hospital in Wejherowo (Neustadt, Westpr.), Chairman: Alfred Friedrich Heinrich Pahnke, surgeon from Danzig, born 1905-.

Due to suspicion of conspiracy against Hitler's regime, Dr Wojewski was arrested by the Gestapo, on 4th May 1943. He was interrogated in prison in Danzig (Gdansk) and on 12th July 1943 endured years of captivity in the Stutthof concentration camp, where he remained till March 1945. He worked as the surgeon in the prisoners hospital of the Concentrations Camp. On March 1945 during the „death march“ through his native town he escaped and went into hiding till the end of the war.

At the end of the war, as a native of the Kashubian region, Dr Wojewski set up hospital departments at Gdynia, Wejherowo and Puck.

In 1946 he obtained his doctor's degree at the Medical Faculty of the University of Poznan. Thesis: *„Sanitary and hygienic **facilitias** (?) and organisation of the medical services in concentration camp Stutthof between 1943 and 1945“* (Stan sanitarny i organizacja pracy lekarskiej w Obozie Koncentracyjnym Stutthof w latach 1943 do 1945). At the same time he was appointed as a chairman of the Department of Surgery and Gynaecology at the District Hospital in Kwidzyn (Marienwerder, West Prussia). In 1949, he fell victim to the communist „justice“. He was arrested for no reason by the UB, the State Security Police, tortured, and held in the Security prison in Gdansk for one year. A clever and influential lawyer saved him from death.

After his release, 1950 Dr Wojewski started his academical career in the Urological Ward (Head, Prof. Tadeusz Lorenz, 1906-1986), of the Surgical Clinic (Chairman, Prof. Zdzislaw Kieturakis) of Gdansk Academy of Medicine where he was also Head of the Clinical Hospital. During this period he became a full surgeon (1953) and urologist (1954) [1, 17, 30].

The development of Urological Clinic in Szczecin

In 1955 Dr Wojewski was appointed by the Ministry of Health to set up the Urological Department in Szczecin (Stettin). This brought about his great genius since until that time he was still a great surgeon in the true sense of the word but this assignment gave him the ideal opportunity to help develop his favoured medical field of interest - urology - into, an independent speciality. Dr Wojewski was appointed by the PAM (Pomeranian Medical Academy) in Szczecin as Associate Professor with in the Urological Ward (30 beds) in the 2nd Surgical Clinic. At that time the urology teaching began here after the establishment of the Urological Wards.

In 1957, Dr Wojewski became with his obligatory experimental work „*The influence of isonicotinic acid hydrazide on the tuberculosis of epididymis*“ „The candidate of Medical Science“.

In 1961, he qualified as a university lecturer with his postdoctoral thesis (habilitation) entitled *The Diagnostical Aspects of the Prostate Cancer*. One year later he became head of the Department of Urology (62 beds) which had been officially established as an independent unit.

Prof. Wojewski was one of the original founders of the PAM in Szczecin had devoted his considerable abilities and creative endeavours to its development. He set up the Urological Clinic with three Wards, male, female and children's ward. He raised developments in scientific research, educational activity, and public service within a short time to such a level that the clinic could compete with the best international urological clinics. He started a wide range of urological services.

During the first few years of its existence the Urological Department was dominated by surgical urology. The patients were treated by a variety of surgical procedures. As the Department's own experience grew over the years from retrospective comparisons of various treatment results, procedures that had proved more effective were favoured. Thus, already in the sixties most of the patients with benign prostatic hypertrophy were operated by Millin's method (retropubic approach), or transvesically in the event of additional pathologies such as stones, tumours, or vesical diverticula. Ureteral stenoses below the renal pelvis were operated by the Andersson-Hynes method, and operations for urinary incontinence in women were done by colposuspension by means of four sutures from the Vagina to the aponeurosis of the abdominal rectus muscle (Burch). Varicoceles were operated on by Palomo's or Bernardi's method. Radical cystectomies were carried out with draining of the urine into the sigmoid colon, at first by Coffey's method and then by Goodwin's. Congenital defects of the urinary system and sexual organs were also repaired surgically in children.

Prof. Wojewski presented papers at many scientific congresses and conferences in his native country and abroad. He took active part in numerous congresses, symposia, conferences, and international educational events. He visited many fellow professors and their clinics, carefully observing their equipment, their routine procedures, and any genuine innovations. After each return to Poland he would introduce new methods of treatment and new surgical techniques in his own hospital, advocate their use at many meetings in Poland, and mention them in his publications.

The comparatively young age of the immigrant population of Szczecin was reflected in the age of the patients. A characteristic feature of this period was the then relatively small number of operations for neoplastic diseases.

In addition, the Clinic had a paediatric urology section and efficiently organized and well equipped biochemical, histopathological, and photographic laboratories. Prof. Wojewski then went on to set up a network of urological outpatient clinics in city limits and in the outlying Szczecin province.

The Clinic served as a referral centre for the city and province of Szczecin, whereas the activity of the Tuberculosis of the Urogenital System section provided medical services to five provinces. The activities of the „Section for children with bed-wetting“ covered the entire country, since this was the only referral centre of its kind in Poland [11, 15, 17, 28, 29, 30].

Outposts of the department of urology

Prof. Wojewski set up two major outposts of the Clinic: the Department of Urogenital Tuberculosis (40 beds) in Zdunowo (Hohenkrug, Head, Adjunct Dr M. Gondzik), suburban of Szczecin. In 1962, he created a Department for children suffering from bed-wetting (80 beds) at the Paediatric Neuro-Psychiatry Sanatorium (Head Dr Wieslaw T. Franczak). in Nowe Czarnowo, near Szczecin.

Marian Gondzik (1920-1997) (Fig. 7), was born in 1920 in Zabrze (Hindenburg), Silesia. He attended Primary school and the Gimnazjum Klasyczne (Classical High School) in Chorzow (Königshütte), where he attained a secondary school certificate in 1938. In 1945 he enrolled at the Dental Faculty of the University of Poznan and graduated in 1948. From 1947 till 1952 he was an assistant of Oral Surgery in University of Poznan. In 1950, he obtained his doctor's degree at the Medical Faculty of the University of Poznan.

In 1952 he was appointed to work as an adjunct of Oral Surgery Clinic in PAM, Szczecin. In 1953, he enrolled Medical Faculty in PAM in Szczecin. In 1955 he began his urological career in Urological Clinic in Szczecin where he became urologist (1961). From 1962 till 1980 he headed the Department of the Urogenital Tuberculosis. In 1972, he habilitated with his postdoctoral Thesis: *„Influence of the testosterone and orchietomy on the experimental urogenital tuberculosis in guinea pigs and rabbits“*. and became Docent (lecturer). In 1980, he retired, and died in Szczecin in 1997.

In 1986, due to dropping number of patients the Department of Urogenital Tuberculosis was closed.

Wieslaw-Tadeusz Franczak born in 1926 in Sosnowiec (Sosnowitz), Silesia (Fig. 8). In 1946, he attained a secondary school certificate in Bytom (Beuthen). He studied Medicine in Krakow, Wroclaw and Szczecin. In 1961, graduated and in 1964 obtained his doctor's degree in Szczecin. He worked in numerous of hospitals and at finally in the Paediatric Neuro-Psychiatry Sanatorium in Nowe Czarnowo, near Szczecin. In 1965, dr. Franczak was appointed as a head of the Department for children suffering from bed-wetting (80 beds) at the Paediatric Neuro-Psychiatry Sanatorium. After 10 years of working, in 1965 Department was closed because sanatorium was gave up for other purposes .

One very important achievement of Prof. Wojewski was the establishment of an Extracorporeal Dialysis Centre (artificial kidney), in 1968, associated with the Urological Clinic. It was the first centre of its kind in Western Pomerania. Adjunct Dr Ryszard Roessler became a head of the Dialysis Ward till 1978.

Dr Ryszard Roessler (1924-1983) was born in Czestochowa (Tschestochau) (Fig. 9). He received his Primary School, and secondary school certificate in 1945 in Czestochowa. In 1945, he enrolled at the Medical Faculty of the University of Poznan and graduated in 1950. He was an assistant of General Pathology in Szczecin till 1955. Then he started his urological career in the Urological Ward. He became urologist and obtained his doctor's degree in 1964.

In 1968, Dr Roessler was appointed by the Prof Wojewski to set up the Extracorporeal Dialysis Centre. He gave up urology and was engaged exclusively in his new favorite occupation, nephrology and dialysis. The centre had three kidney machines, which were used in two 12-hour shifts. The use of haemodialysis made it possible to provide surgical treatment for patients with renal failure, but also ensured support in the treatment of renal failure patients suffering from other complaints. The centre was supported by a newly organized associated biochemical, histopathological, and photographic laboratory. In addition to the biochemical investigations necessary for haemodialysis, this laboratory also served as a base for scientific research. It was here that the (at that time novel) biological method was developed for the determination of renin. Very difficult local conditions eventually led to the closure of this centre in 1978, after ten years of operation (working). Dr Roessler died in 1983, in Szczecin [11, 17, 29].

Scientific research work

Due to his diligence and indomitable determination, Prof. Wojewski was able to combine the arduous duties of the Head of the Clinic with extensive and fruitful scientific activity. The focus of his scientific work was the problem of prostate cancer. He developed a method of culturing prostate carcinoma and adenoma cells in vitro, and demonstrated the influence of male and female sex hormones on the growth of these cells.

He improved the technique of collecting material for morphological examinations, developed a method of diagnosing prostate cancer with the aid of radiophosphorus P-32, provided a detailed morphological description of tumour cells and healthy cells in prostatic secretion. As far as his research work is concerned, special mention should perhaps be made of the experimental induction of malignant tumours in organs of the urogenital system, and in particular in the prostate, with the aid of methylcholanthrene. He devoted much time to other problems as well: among others to tuberculosis of the urogenital system, urolithiasis, congenital defects in children, and both acute and chronic renal failure. His work in the field of extracorporeal dialysis has shed new light on the biochemical phenomena occurring in the course of dialysis. He introduced a number of technical improvements, as well as a simple and practical way of monitoring haemodialysis.

He performed the first radical prostatectomy by ischio-coccygeal approach in Poland [26, 27, 29, 30].

Prof. Wojewski participated in numerous congresses and symposia in Poland and abroad. He followed closely advances in western medicine, new solutions appearing abroad were quickly adopted in Szczecin. Following studies and observations at several European urological clinics (e.g. Barcelona, Berlin, Bonn, London, Lyon, Paris, Rostock and Wuppertal). He went abroad. There he attended or visited the schools of the most eminent European urologist. During his life he had extensive contact with many of well

known professors. Every time after returning to Poland, he developed and introduced new therapeutic methods and procedures for operations in the clinic.

Prof. Wojewski was the author of 132 publications and book's chapters in the fields of urology and nephrology which have appeared in scientific literature in Poland and abroad [17, 20-29, 30]. He was author of the monograph „The cancer of the prostate“ (1968) (Fig. 10).

Prof. Wojewski was also actively involved in the work of numerous scientific bodies. He was the President of the Polish Urological Society from 1964-1966, and Chairman of the Polish Section of Société Internationale d'Urologie. Prof. Wojewski was the President and organizer of the Meeting of the Polish Urological Association (PUA) in Kolobrzeg (Kolberg), 1965. In 1966 he organized the 10th Congress of the Polish Urological Society, attended by 300 PUA members and 104 foreign guests from 22 countries (Fig. 11).

Administrative activities

Prof. Wojewski also took part in the administrative work of the PAM. For two terms of office he served as the Dean of the Medical Faculty, and for another two terms as the Deputy Rector for clinical affairs. He worked as the urological consultant for the Szczecin and Koszalin provinces, and for many years he was a member of the national specialist supervisory board (Fig. 12).

Within the framework of general Polish organizational restructuring in 1972 the Urological Clinic was made part of the Surgical Institute of the PAM. Prof. dr. hab. med. Alfons Wojewski became the Director of this Institute, a position he held until his retirement.

In recognition of his his work and many achievements and contributions, Professor Alfons Wojewski was awarded a number of prestigious polish prizes. He is a honor member of the Polish Urological Association. In 1990 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Norwegian Red Cross for the medical services and care he extended to Norwegian prisoners in the Stutthof concentration camp during the second world war. (Fig. 13). He was a member of European Association of Urology.

The Clinic's own library held 1541 books, Polish medical journals, and the majority of the foreign urological periodicals. The scientific output of the academic staff at the Clinic up to 1979 comprised 306 papers published in both the Polish and the foreign medical literature. This included five monographs and four collected works in book form. The present author brought with him, from a scientific sojourn in Sweden, a Fränzen system (apparatus) for cytodiagnostic of the prostate cancer. In collaboration with the Pathology Institute of the PAM and Bialystok Urological Clinic, the results of cytological examinations of aspiration puncture specimens were published in *Urologia Polska* (Polish Urology).

In 1979, after spending 24 years of his life at Szczecin, Professor Wojewski retired and moved to Warsaw, where he continued working for almost another 12 years as a member of a team of medical directors and professors. His achievements were due in large measure to the industry and understanding of his wife. He died on 3 November 1992 in Warsaw. He is interred in the Solpice Cemetary in Warsaw [17, 29, 30] (Fig. 14).

Until 1987 two urologist without appropriate scientific grades headed the clinic. Dr. Stanislaw Krason (1923-1986) till 1986 Dr. Stanislaw Spoz from 1986 to 1987.

After retirement of Prof. Wojewski Dr. Krason was acting as a head of department. During this period the Clinic reached a high level of routine practice but without scientific activities. A part of urological department and its equipment were incorporated in the department of surgery. Department of Urology lost all his laboratories, and rich collection of the Department's library. There were the great difficulties with both premises and personal.

Stanislaw Krason (Fig. 15) was born in a small village Tarnowa (South Poland) in 1923, where he finished his primary education, in 1937, and received his secondary school leaving certificate in Krasnystaw, in 1945. In 1945 he started his medical studies in Lublin and graduated from Pomeranian Medical Academy (PAM) in Szczecin in 1952. Already as a student in 1949 he became junior assistant at the Department of Surgery in Szczecin. In 1955 he joined Prof. A. Wojewski to learn urology. In 1961, he obtained his doctor's degree in PAM. He worked for many years in Department of Urology as a first adjunct. He published about 20 scientific papers in the field of Urology.

Dr Krason died on 26th June 1986 of a stroke, in Szczecin. After his death, department was managed about one year by Dr. Stanislaw Spoz, until May 1987.

Stanislaw Spoz (Fig. 16) was born in Szczecbrzeszyn in 1941. In 1965, she graduated from PAM in Szczecin and in 1973, she obtained her doctor's degree and became urologist in 1975. She worked in Urological Department in Szczecin till 1989 [11, 15, 17, 29, 30].

Urology in Szczecin today

Since 1987 Professor **Andrzej Sikorski** (born 1945-) (Fig.17) has held the urological chair of this Urological Department. This period is characterised by profound socio-political changes in east Europe which laid the foundation for rapid and revolutionary modernisation of medicine and further cooperation with western urologist.

During his leadership almost all contemporary diagnostic apparatus and therapeutic equipment and treatment methods of urological diseases have been introduced and improved in the department. Under his supervision extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (E.S.W.L.), percutaneous nephrolitholapaxy (PCN), endourology and laparoscopic urology were introduced, developed or modernized. Prof. Sikorski organised two Congresses of Polish Urological Association, in 1993 and in 2003 in Szczecin. He is engaged in urological politics in Poland and abroad [11, 15].

Presently, in addition to Urological Clinic there are three more independent urology units in Szczecin.

Since 1983 Department of Urology (28 beds) in Woiwodschaft Hospital (Arkonska, Nemitzer Strasse, german: Kückenmühler Anstalten). First Chef of the urological department was Dr Stanislaw Taraszkiewicz (born 1929). Actually, since 1996, Dr Jerzy Switala has headed urological department.

In the military hospital in Szczecin (Till 1945 Landesfrauenklinik, Roonstrasse) an Urological Ward of 30 beds was duly opened on 01. July 1987, headed by a Dr. Jan Mickiewicz. Dr. Mickiewicz is permitted two residents in urology.

Since 1989 Dr. Stanislaw Spoz has headed an Urological Ward of 20 beds in Municipal Hospital (german: Carolus Boromeus Stift, Pölitzer Strasse). Now, the urological unit is equipped with modern diagnostic and therapeutic apparatus. Thanks three young, vigorous and engaged urologists almost all modern diagnostic and treatment

methods of urological diseases have been improved and introduced (endourology, laparoscopic urology, E.S.W.L. and PCN), [15,16, 17].

The Szczecin Urological Clinic is located still on the ground floor of block B of Independent Public Clinical Hospital No. 2 (13), as it was 85 years earlier (Fig. 18).

The ambitious plans to build a new hospital fitted out with modern equipment, drawn up in the 20s and 60s of the previous century failed to be implemented owing to the lack of funds.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF UROLOGY IN STETTIN/SZCZECIN. HOW POLITICAL CHANGES INFLUENCED MEDICINE

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Legend

- Fig. 1. The first hospital in Stettin (Szczecin) (1734-1833)
- Fig. 2. Plan of the municipal hospital in Stettin (1931)
- Fig. 3. Department of Urology, ground floor (1919)
- Fig. 4. Dr. Felix Hagen (1880-1862) (1960)
- Fig. 5. A publication in Medizinische Klinik (1930)
- Fig. 6. Prof Alfons Wojewski (1912.1992)
- Fig. 7. Doc. Marian Gondzik (1920-1997)

- Fig. 8. Dr. Wieslaw-Tadeusz Franczak (b 1926)
- Fig. 9. Dr Ryszard Roessler (1924-1983)
- Fig. 10. Title page of Wojewski's monography *Prostata cancer*.
- Fig. 11. 10th Congress of the PUA Szczecin (1966)
- Fig. 12. Prof Wojewski as dean of PAM
- Fig. 13. Gold Medal of the Norwegian Red Cross
- Fig. 14. Tomb at the Solpice Cemetary, Warsaw (2004)
- Fig. 15. Dr Stanislaw Krason (1923-1986)
- Fig. 16. Dr. Stanislaw Spoz (2004)
- Fig. 17. Prof. A. Sikorski (*right*) Dr. T. Zajaczkowski (*left*), Cracow (2004)
- Fig. 18. Department of Urology in Szczecin (2003)