

Tribute to John H. Laragh by Włodzimierz Januszewicz and Andrzej Januszewicz

On the occasion of Celebrating the Life and Legacy of John H. Laragh on September 18th 2015 at Uris Auditorium, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York

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John H. Laragh has been a great inspiration to us in the field of hypertension research. We both always admired his inquisitive mind, deep knowledge of physiology and medicine, and keen clinical insights leading him to innovative and truly pioneering research in the field of hypertension.

Dr. Włodzimierz Januszewicz first met John H. Laragh in 1958, during the fellowship of the Rockefeller Foundation in the Department of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. During a 1-year stay, Dr. Włodzimierz Januszewicz became keenly interested in the role of aldosterone in the pathogenesis of arterial hypertension. The work of the research group has led to two relevant observations. The first one changed the landscape of malignant hypertension and provided the first evidence that an inappropriately high plasma level of aldosterone was a hallmark of accelerated hypertension. The results of this research were published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

The second major achievement by the research group of John H. Laragh was to document the effect of hydrochlorothiazide on the renal excretion of electrolytes and free water, and the results were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The intense and sustained interest of John H. Laragh and his research group in the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system for more than 40 years has been unparalleled and had an enormous impact on the continuation of research and clinical work by Dr. Włodzimierz Januszewicz on his return to Warsaw, Poland. John H. Laragh always served with his generous advice and encouragement.

Dr. Andrzej Januszewicz first met John H. Laragh in 1982, during his fellowship in Hypertension

Clinic, Cornell University—New York Hospital, New York.

During a 2-year fellowship, Dr. Andrzej Januszewicz was involved in research group studies focused on the biological actions of atrial natriuretic peptide in the pathogenesis of arterial hypertension, which led him to come up with several important observations.

The research group, as one of the first, purified, synthesized, and described biological properties of newly discovered natriuretic peptide, auriculin, and the results of this study were published in *Nature*.

An important achievement was also to document that the atrial natriuretic factor counteracted the effects of endogenous vasoconstrictors on both the peripheral and renal vasculature; the results were published in *Hypertension*.

The intense focus on the natriuretic peptide system by the research group of John H. Laragh had a tremendous impact on the continuation of research and clinical work by Dr. Andrzej Januszewicz on his return to Warsaw, Poland.

We were both fortunate to work in research groups led by John H. Laragh and to participate in some of those important events that gave us insights into the details of new science and became a wonderful learning experience. We are forever indebted to John H. Laragh for his contribution to the field of hypertension.

John H. Laragh will be always remembered in Poland as a visionary scientist and clinician who was a world leader in the field of hypertension with extraordinary legacy.

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