

Stanisław Kuczborski (1912–2004): pulmonologist and phtysiatrist

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Abstract: Stanisław Kuczborski was born in Łódź on January 31, 1912. In 1937, he got his medical degree at the Medical Department of the Warsaw University. Afterwards, he was employed in a sanitarium in Otwock near Warsaw. As a physician, he was a pulmonary and phtysiatic consultant. After Second World War, Kuczborski performed many managerial duties in Łódź. In the 1950s, he was Deputy Director of the Tuberculosis Institute in Warsaw. He held foreign (Denmark, France) scientific internships and was a member of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in Paris. In Poland, he received an honorary membership of the Polish Phtysiatry and Pneumology Association. Kuczborski published 70 works. He died in Łódź on August 23, 2004.

Key words: history of medicine, phthysiology, pulmonology, Stanisław Kuczborski

Stanisław Kuczborski (Fig.) was born on January 31, 1912 in Łódź into an educated family. He obtained his high school diploma in 1930 at the Mikołaj Kopernik Boys' High School in Łódź and became a student at the Medical Department of the Warsaw University. In 1937, Kuczborski received his medical degree. In his 5th year at the university, he went down with tuberculosis and was referred to the University Sanitarium in Zakopane, which resulted in his further medical interests [1]. After completion of a one-year postgraduate internship in Warsaw hospitals, he found employment as an assistant in the Sanitarium of the City of Warsaw in Otwock, where he expanded his knowledge of internal medicine, particularly phtysiatry, under direction of an outstanding specialist, Prof Zdzisław Skibiński. The sanitarium was also the place, where he spent the years of the Nazi occupation. After the war, Kuczborski returned to his home city of Łódź, where he held a post of director in several hospitals: the St. Theresa Hospital and the Józef Brudziński Hospital in Łódź, and the Lung Disease Hospital in Łagiewniki (until he retired in 1977). In the years 1956–1957, he performed the director's duties of the Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Tuszynek. Throughout 17 years of his career (1950–1967), he was also a phtysiatic consultant for three provinces: Łódź, Kielce and Olsztyn [2].

Kuczborski's career was mainly associated with Łódź; only in the period of 1952–1955 he resided in Warsaw, acting as Deputy Director of the Tuberculosis Institute. In Łódź, he

established a laboratory of physiopathology of breathing, the first in the region and one of the first in Poland [3].

He held foreign scientific internships, mainly in the field of functional tests and rehabilitation of the respiratory system,



Fig. Stanisław Kuczborski (reproduced from: Archiwum Szpitala Chorób Płuc w Łagiewnikach)

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in France (Count Jakub Potocki Foundation scholarship) and Denmark [4].

In 1951, he received his PhD from the Silesian Medical Academy. His scientific research activity resulted in approx. 70 publications, mainly on tuberculosis (TB) chemotherapy, physiopathology of breathing, rehabilitation and intensive care of the respiratory system diseases [5]. Since 1955, Kuczborski was an honorary member of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in Paris. He was among the founders of the Łódź Department of the Polish Association for Tuberculosis Scientific Research. In the years 1952–1956, he was the vice-president of the Board of Polish Phthisiatric Association (Polskie Towarzystwo Ftyzjatryczne – PTF) and the deputy of the editor-in-chief of the journal *Tuberculosis* [6]. At the end of the 1950s, Kuczborski became president of the Łódź Department of the PTF, and in 1973, at the 18th All-Poland Tuberculosis Control Convention in Białystok, he was awarded an honorary membership of the Polish Phthisiatry and Pneumology Association. For his activity in the field of TB control in the post-war years, he was decorated with a medal of an honorary member of the Public Committee for Tuberculosis Control (1986) and received an honorary diploma for the 50th anniversary of medical career awarded by the Medical Academy in Warsaw.

He died in Łódź on August 23, 2004 at the age of 92 [7].

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