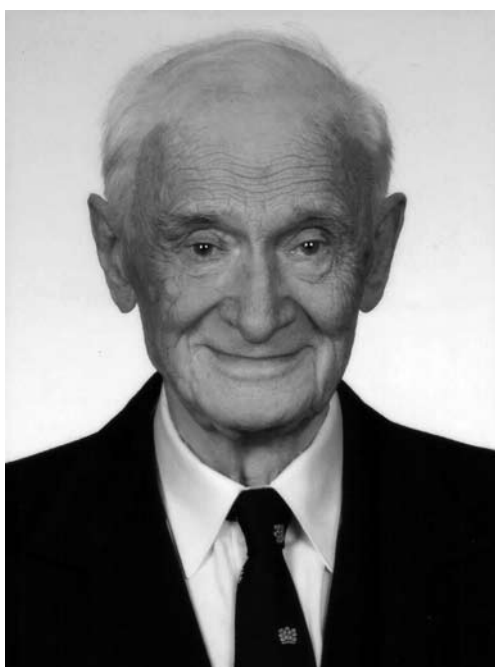


# In memoriam: Professor Kornel Gibiński, MD, PhD (1915–2012)

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Professor Kornel Gibiński (courtesy of the Gibiński family)

It was Saturday noon when I got a heartbreaking and shocking message saying that Professor Kornel Gibiński passed away. I was sitting at my office desk, while almost 60 years of collaboration and friendship flashed through my brain.

I met Professor Gibiński for the first time in autumn 1953 when I requested permission to work as a volunteer at the 3rd Department of Internal Medicine at the Silesian Medical Academy in Bytom, of which he was the head. As I worked simultaneously at the Department of Pharmacology, where I was finalizing my doctoral thesis, I sometimes found it difficult to reconcile work at two different institutions. Thus, after thesis defense in 1957, I decided to leave pharmacology and dedicate myself to internal medicine. The main reason for that decision was that in a very short time, I realized that Professor Gibiński was not only a great clinician but also a brilliant scientist

and an excellent teacher. I soon became the head of the clinical laboratory, which I supervised to the end of my professional life.

As Professor Gibiński foresaw future developments in medicine, he very quickly developed four directions of clinical and scientific interest: gastroenterology, cardiology, nephrology, and isotope imaging in internal diseases. By introducing modern methods of imaging and enzymatic liver tests, Silesian gastrology became the flywheel of gastrology development in Poland. Two other directions of scientific and clinical interest developed simultaneously – modern diagnostic and therapeutic cardiology and nephrology. In these two disciplines, the department headed by Professor Gibiński very quickly became the teaching center for colleagues living not only in Poland but also abroad.

Professor Gibiński had two mottos: “do not demand from your collaborators more than from yourself” and “accept successes of your fellow specialists with humbleness and dignity”. He was the pearl not only of Polish gastroenterology but also of internal medicine. He was awarded degree *honoris causa* by five universities and granted honorary membership of several international and national scientific societies; he also received numerous international and national distinctions.

Professor Gibiński was a committed Christian whose faith was the mainstay of his activity as a physician and an academic teacher. His religious beliefs helped him at the end of his life to endure prolonged illness with grace and dignity. He left thousands of bereaved patients, whom he offered hope and solace, and numerous professors, doctors, scientific workers, and internists, who perceived him as an outstanding teacher and a great physician.

Peace to his memory.

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