
Obituary

Professor Jacek Kijowski (1948 – 2013)



(Professor of the Poznań University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition, Department of Food Quality Management)

It is very hard for us to come to terms with the fact that our Professor, Jacek Kijowski is no longer with us. For our team, he was not only our supervisor and Head of the Department, but more importantly, our colleague, friend, and a highly significant figure both in our professional and private lives. He sadly died on 23 July 2013, at the height of his creative and intellectual powers.

Prof. Kijowski was born on the 5th of April 1948 in Poznań. In 1966 He graduated from the renown Marcin

Kasprzak Grammar School (now the Jan Kanty Grammar School) in Poznań. In 1971, He graduated from the University of Agriculture in Poznań, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Technology.

He received his doctoral degree in agricultural sciences in 1978, preparing his doctoral dissertation under the supervision of Professor Adam Niewiarowicz, an outstanding scientist, considered a pioneer of food science, a researcher of exceptional knowledge, respected for his excellent manners and the organiser of the first Polish research unit working on poultry raw materials. These supervisory qualities undoubtedly influenced the scientific and personal development of a young scientist such as Jacek Kijowski at that time, who later focused on poultry meat and egg technology as principal areas of scientific interest. These issues were the subject matter of his post-doctoral dissertation, on the basis of which he received the scientific degree of Assistant Professor in technical sciences in 1987.

Professor Kijowski took several fellowship sabbaticals at prestigious foreign research and scientific centres, i.e. at the German Bundesanstalt für Fleischforschung in Kulmbach (1978), Pennsylvania State University in the USA (1984-86), the University of Bristol in Great Britain (1991) and the Poultry Research Center Het Spelderholt, Holland (1995), which made it possible for him to become acquainted with other modern research schools and work with outstanding specialists working in poultry meat and egg technology.

In 1996 he was awarded the title of Professor in agricultural sciences and, from 2006, he was working at our University on the position of full professor. He received both the title and the position for his significant research and achievements covering a wide spectrum of problems in technology of animal origin food, particularly technology, biochemistry and hygiene of poultry as well as eggs and poultry products.

Specifically among the numerous areas of his scientific interest include:

- Quality of poultry and poultry meat, particularly chicken PSE meat,
- Processing of hot meat,
- Chilling and freezing of poultry meat,

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- Properties and technological role of myofibrillar proteins,
- Properties of cytoskeletal proteins,
- Mechanically deboned poultry meat (MDPM),
- Production and properties of highly functional myofibril preparations,
- Thermodynamic properties of muscle proteins,
- Isolation and properties of valuable egg components, particularly lysozyme,
- Preservation of poultry meat and eggs using novel, non-thermal methods,
- as well as
- Improvement and integration of systemic health safety and food quality management, including risk assessment methods.

The complete body of publications written by Professor Kijowski comprises 335 items, including 89 original research papers, of which 35 were IF papers, as well as three patents. He was the author or co-author of 30 books and textbooks (chapters), 50 scientific articles, 42 popular science articles, many other published papers delivered at international conferences as well as summaries, numerous reviews of books as well as reviews of post-doctoral and doctoral dissertations. Over 40% of his publications were printed in renowned foreign journals. Professor Kijowski was awarded five individual grants of the State Committee for Scientific Research, while in four other grants, he participated as a contractor.

Although it is simply impossible to mention all Professor Kijowski's scientific achievements within this short memorial note, we need to stress that they evoked respect for his scientific competence, both in Poland and abroad. Professor Kijowski delivered plenary papers several times at international conferences, particularly for the World's Poultry Science Association, and he presided over many international sessions. He was a co-initiator and organiser of numerous enterprises connected with the development of the poultry industry both in Poland and abroad. Thanks to his activities, our University and poultry technology research centre was ranked highly, and, in later years, the same respect was observed in the field of systemic solutions in quality assurance and food safety, particularly for food of animal origin.

The outstanding role of Professor Kijowski in the Polish scientific community was manifested in his activities in the Committee for Food Technology and Chemistry PAS (at present the Committee for Food Sciences), particularly in numerous editorial boards of scientific and technical journals. He cooperated with the Polish Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences as an Associate Editor in the years 1994 - 2010, with the journal *Żywność-Technologia-Jakość* and was a member of the Programme Board of *Polskie Drobniarstwo* and *Przemysł Spożywczy*.

As an associate professor, and later full professor, he participated in numerous training courses in quality management and food safety. The first was the course in Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Hygienic Practice (GMP/GHP) in food industry, organised in the USA in 1985. In 1997 He completed a course in the HACCP system at the National Veterinary Research Institute. In 2002, upon passing respective examinations he received a certificate as auditor for the quality system TÜV Akademie GmbH, Unternehmensgruppe TÜV Süddeutschland, and in 2004 he received an analogous certificate for HACCP systems. Professor Kijowski treated audits of food industry plants, implementations and consultations as verification of his knowledge as well as a test for practical skills. Thanks to this activity, he had frequent contact with large, medium and small food industry plants and, in recent years, this was extended to other branches of industry. This provided him with additional knowledge connected with industrial practice, highly useful for the education of students in the field

of technology and quality management systems. Following the example of Professor Kijowski most scientific workers and academic teachers at the Department took training and qualifications in quality management system areas.

On Professor Kijowski's initiative, in 2002 the Department of Food Quality Management was founded based on two former units, the Department of Poultry Product Technology and the Department of Nuclear Technology in Agriculture. Understanding the challenge connected with Poland joining the European Union, Professor Jacek Kijowski created and headed a modern research unit specialising in the fields of quality management and food safety, at the same time ensuring poultry science as an area of specific studies. Professor Kijowski quickly and smoothly integrated both teams and specified precisely research and teaching directions. At the same time the Faculty post-graduate courses on quality management and food safety were founded under his supervision. Almost 600 students have graduated from 11 successive runs of this educational programme, which is of great importance to industrial practice. Professor Kijowski provided a significant contribution to the establishment of commodity science as a new field of study at our Faculty with the specialisation 'Food Quality Management'.

Professor Kijowski combined scientific work with teaching and education of young staff. He was a highly valued academic teacher. Two post-doctoral dissertations were prepared under his supervision and two further ones are greatly advanced in progress, in total he was the scientific supervisor for six doctoral dissertations. The last conferral procedure was completed in June 2013. He has been scientific supervisor for over 200 Master of Science and Engineering students.

These figures alone do not fully reflect Professor Kijowski's commitment to work. Extensive intellectual endeavours, combined with stimulating discussions were behind each publication, doctoral dissertation, post-doctoral dissertation and graduation of his students. Our team feel particular admiration and respect for Professor Kijowski, as he never gave up on scientific and teaching activity despite his long-term battle with serious disease.

In June 2013 Professor Kijowski realised his idea to commemorate his own teacher and scientific mentor, Professor Adam Niewiarowicz, by organising a seminar devoted to his memory and achievements.

Our Professor also had his passions. In the summer it was windsurfing, while in the winter it was skiing. He was a gourmet and connoisseur, enjoying not only poultry dishes. He was sensitive to art, loved good music; the authors of this commemorative note are deeply moved remembering how during business trips his car was filled with Gregorian chants flowing from the loudspeakers, with their majesty meeting those of the church spires we were passing by. However, for Professor Kijowski, his passion for research was of greatest importance - it constituted the essence of his life and activity. Professor Jacek Kijowski may have passed away, but he left his achievements behind, which will serve future generations of students and researchers.

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