



Prof. Józef Szarek DVM PhD obtained the title of veterinary surgeon in 1972 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Higher Agricultural School in Olsztyn (currently the University of Warmia and Mazury). Initially, he worked in the County Veterinary Department in Pisz, then as an assistant lecturer at the Pathological Anatomy Department. He received a doctoral degree in veterinary sciences in the field of pathological anatomy in 1978 after defending his doctoral dissertation entitled *Unusual cellular reactions in the course of cattle leukemia*.

In 1987 he obtained the degree of habilitated doctor, and his habilitation dissertation was entitled *Effect of dimethyl sulfoxide and hydrocortisone on the pattern of lymphopoietic organs of miniature pigs in the course of experimental amyloidosis* which was reviewed, among others, by professors of medical sciences Jerzy Stachura and Eugeniusz Małdyk. He was awarded the title of professor in 1996. He held managerial positions within the Laboratory, Department and Team of Forensic Veterinary Medicine and the Chair of Pathophysiology, Forensic Veterinary Medicine and Administration between 1988 and 2018.

In 1984 he completed a one-year course in the field of ultrastructural pathology under the supervision of Prof. Janusz Groniowski. Between 1984-1986 he undertook a 2-years course for forensic experts at the University of Warsaw.

In 1997 he obtained the titles of specialist in epizootiology and veterinary administration as well as in Usage and pathology of laboratory animals. In the latter, in 2008 he was appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development as the national head of the veterinary specialization in Usage and pathology of laboratory animals, and he continues to perform this function.

He completed scientific internships related to pathomorphology at: the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen and the National Veterinary Institute, Copenhagen, as well as at the Veterinary University in Budapest, and scientific missions in India (Delhi and Puna) and in Germany (Munich). Between 2006–2017 he participated in the Erasmus, Socrates and Nobel programs eleven times, promoting science as a lecturer abroad at the universities in Kaunas (Lithuania), Lugo, Madrid (Spain) and Teramo (Italy).

Activities within the Polish Society of Pathologists, Polish Society of Veterinary Sciences, European Society of Pathologists and European Society of Veterinary Pathology

As a member of the Polish Society of Veterinary Sciences (PSVS - since 1972), the Polish Society of Pathologists (PSP - since 1976), the European Society of Pathologists (ESP - since 1985) and the European Society of Veterinary Pathologists (ESVP - since 1994), Prof. Szarek participated in these organizations, presenting their research results at their scientific conferences with outstanding commitment. Between 2004–2014, as a member of the board of the ESVP, he had a significant impact on both the image and the dissemination of European veterinary pathology.

He was an excellent promoter of pathology within the PSP and the PSVS (he was the chairman of its Olsztyn Division between 1992–1997). In the first case, in 1976 he was a co-founder of the PSP Division in Olsztyn and its chairman between 1990-1998 and from 2016 till now. In 1992, he co-organized the 12th Congress of the PSP in Olsztyn. He organized or co-organized

eleven national scientific and twelve international conferences on pathology-related subjects. In 2004, he organized the 22nd Congress of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology in Olsztyn (the first in Central and Eastern Europe) - <http://www.uwm.edu.pl/esvp/>, and five years later a similar congress (27th Congress of the ESVP) in Kraków - <http://www.esvp.pl>. Both congresses were combined with numerous conferences, symposia and workshops and gathered over 1,000 scientists from around the world. Professor Szarek also promoted pathology through reports from scientific congresses (25 publications, including four in English) and analysis of the scientific work of PSP, ESVP and the European College of Veterinary Pathologists, among others (10 publications, including four in English).

Teaching, organizational, professional and social activities

For 47 years of his professional activity, Prof. Józef Szarek proved himself to be an academic teacher performing his duties with great passion, creativity and commitment. He was an excellent teacher in the context of exercises, lectures, workshops and countless courses, training not only as part of pathomorphology, but also within clinical sciences. Currently, he still actively participates in the post-graduate training of veterinarians specializing in various fields. He was distinguished many times for his teaching activity at the faculty, university and the ministerial level.

Prof. Szarek created a scientific school of veterinary pathomorphology and forensic veterinary around him, which is confirmed by his scientific achievements, supervision of twelve doctors of veterinary science and reviewing three consecutive doctoral dissertations. In addition, he supervised thirty-eight specialists in the field of utilization and pathology of laboratory animals (there are 48 throughout the country). Of his doctoral students, three work at universities, including one with the title of professor.

Prof. Józef Szarek is still an active member of the medical and veterinary governing bodies. He is the vice-president of the 7th term of office in the Warmia and Mazury Chamber of Veterinary Medicine (2016-present), and in the National Chamber of Veterinary Medicine in that term serves as a member of the National Medical and Veterinary Court (2016-present). In addition, he is the deputy chairman of the Bioethics Committee at the Warmia and Mazury Medical Chamber (2014-present). In the Warmia and Mazury Medical and Veterinary Chamber, he was also a member of the Committee for Vocational Education and Specialization (1992-1996), chairman of the 3rd and 4th term of office of the Regional Court (1995-2005) and a member of the Council of the 5th and 6th terms of office (2005-2016).

He willingly undertook the work of a forensic expert in preparatory and court proceedings for trial bodies. Appearing as an *ad hoc* expert and working as an expert on the list of the Regional Court in Olsztyn (1983-2003, 2015-present), in Białystok (2015-present) and in Gdańsk (2015-present), he is the co-author or author of over 600 expert opinions. In this regard, as a perfectionist, researcher and active forensic expert, he is the author of a handbook on forensic veterinary medicine entitled *Veterinarian as a forensic expert*, which appeared in five editions. In this field, the education of students in all veterinary medicine faculties in Poland has been based on his knowledge since 1994 and veterinary practitioners also use it.

In his work for the editorial boards of nine scientific journals, including the Journal of Dermatology, the Journal of Elementology, the Polish Journal of Pathology and the International Journal of Forensic Sciences and Pathology, Prof. Szarek effects the image of publishing scientific papers in the field of pathomorphology and forensic veterinary medicine. In addition, he reviewed over a dozen manuscripts each year. His scientific and organizational achievements resulted in, among others, his work as an expert at the European Food Safety Authority in Parma and membership in the Committee on Veterinary Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Scientific activity

Prof. Józef Szarek is a well-known and respected veterinary pathologist, both in Poland and abroad. His skills are manifested in scientific works. He has rich and outstanding achievements: he is the author or co-author of over 20 scientific books, 260 original papers, 150 review papers and 320 scientific announcements of research findings, of which nearly half have been published in journals on the Philadelphia list. His papers have been published, among others, in *Particle and Fibre Toxicology* (Impact Factor (IF) – 9.178), *Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology* (IF – 3.98), *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries* (IF – 3.575), *Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology* (IF – 3.176), *Virchows Archiv* (IF – 2.848), *Marine Environmental Research* (IF – 2.762) and the *Journal of Comparative Pathology* (IF – 1.647).

His works were cited about 1,450 times. The scientific achievements of Prof. Szarek are of great significance in the field of pathomorphology, environmental ecotoxicology and veterinary law and are constantly growing. The professor has particularly outstanding achievements in the pathomorphogenesis of morphological changes in experimental nanotoxicopathomorphology. In cooperation with scientists from Denmark, he developed, among others, the impact of nanocomposite materials, containing carbon nanotubes, on the pathomorphology of the internal organs of mice. The results of this work are reflected in preventive proceedings and in research into technologies using these materials. He also developed numerous publications in the field of veterinary experimental pathology and forensic veterinary medicine, publishing them in journals and books, including *Laboratory animals - pathology and usage*.

Prof. Szarek was the head of numerous grants, and managed, among others, projects such as: *Impact of the type of fisheries production technology and quality of the aquatic environment on selected breeding and pathomorphological indicators of consumption carp* (2007-2008), *Impact of pesticide tomb on the environment* (2001-2004), *Assessment of the effectiveness of liquidation of a selected pesticide tomb in the Ilawa Lake District by analyzing the state of the natural environment* (2006-2009), *Testing trout production technologies used in Poland in the light of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 710/2009* (2009-2014): <http://www.pstrag.com>. He has also managed two grants received from the EU.

The obtained results of research from grants were manifested, among others, in four books, including *The quality of rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss, Walbaum 1792) from technologies applied in Poland. Testing of trout production technologies applied in Poland in the light of the Commission Regulation (WE) 710/2009*; Publishing Office “Elset”, ISBN 978-83-62863-65-5, Olsztyn, 2013 (153 pages). He is also the co-author of a chapter in the monograph entitled *Q-fever in humans and animals* and the co-author of monographs entitled *Pathology nowadays* (2004) and *Pathology today* (2009). A significant part of Prof. Szarek's publications are available on the following website: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jozef_Szarek/research.

Prof. Józef Szarek has contributed to raising the level and significance of native and European pathology, especially veterinary pathology and forensic veterinary medicine and presented his approach in the education of doctoral students and specialists in the field of pathology, including the utilization and pathology of experimental animals.

Prof. Józef Szarek received the title of Honorary Member of the Polish Society of Pathologists during the opening ceremony of the 21st PSP Congress the 26th of September, 2019.