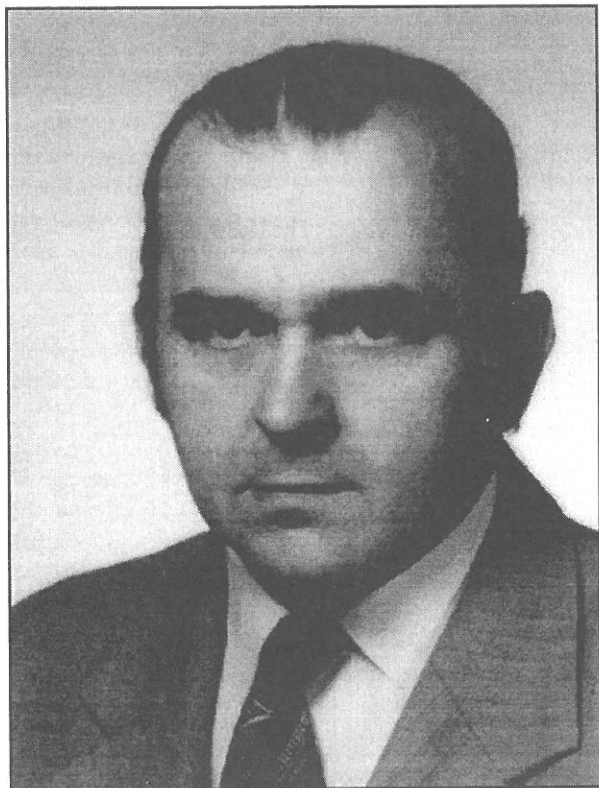


PROFESSOR JERZY WDOWCZYK (1935 - 1996)

Professor Jerzy Wdowczyk, a distinguished cosmic ray physicist, died in Łódź on September 6, 1996.



Jerzy Wdowczyk was born in Sońnica in central Poland on July 28, 1935. He finished the Pedagogical High School in Krotoszyn and worked as a teacher in a primary school for three years. Afterwards he began to study physics at the University of Łódź, where he graduated in 1960. After completing his studies he joined the extensive air shower (EAS) group led by Professor Aleksander Zawadzki, who started cosmic ray research in Łódź.

Studies of different aspects of EAS development in the atmosphere became one of the main areas of J. Wdowczyk's scientific research. The aim of his work was to get information about the nature of the particle which initiated the shower and about properties of high energy interaction. In 1964 he got his PhD for work on the muon content in showers induced by a photon. Next he worked on fluctuations of the muon and electron densities observed on the ground and their dependence on the mass of the primary particle. This work was the basis of his habilitation in 1972. When in 1968 Prof. Aleksander Zawadzki was forced

to stay abroad, J. Wdowczyk took over the leadership of the Łódź cosmic ray group. Since then he worked in the Institute for Nuclear Research (and then Soltan Institute for Nuclear Studies), from 1972 as an associate professor and from 1978 as a professor. All the time he was closely bound with Łódź University, where he gave lectures and seminars. He was the supervisor of many PhD and MA theses. He was the Chairman of the Scientific Council of SINS in the period 1987 - 1991. From 1992 he held the Chair of the Experimental Physics Division of Łódź University.

He collaborated with many cosmic ray laboratories in England, France, Germany and Russia. Among all his collaborations the most important one was with prof. Arnold Wolfendale's group at the University of Durham (England). The research performed with the Durham group related to all aspects of cosmic ray physics, from properties of high energy interactions to astrophysics (famous scaling breaking hypothesis' of Wdowczyk and Wolfendale).

J. Wdowczyk published around 180 scientific papers and gave around 150 contributions to different international cosmic ray conferences and symposiums, many of which he organized or chaired. He actively worked in the Cosmic Ray Commission of IUPAP, first as its member from 1981 to 1987, then its Secretary (1987-1990) and finally as its Chairman (1990-1993). From 1960 he was a member of the Polish Physical Society, where he served for several years as a member of the Main Council. He was a member of the British Royal Astronomical Society and the American Physical Society. He was awarded the Maria Curie-Skłodowska prize in 1979 and the prize of the Committee for Atomic Energy in 1976. In 1985 the University of Durham awarded him the degree of Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*).

J. Wdowczyk was a man of great enthusiasm for science and of high personal authority. He was one of the founders of cosmic ray research in Poland. He left a group of collaborators and pupils, who shall continue his work. This will be the best tribute that can be paid to his memory.

Jerzy Gawin