

REVIEW ARTICLE

**JADWIGA KOCZOCIK-PRZEDPELSKA (1920–2023) – MEMORIES**

**JADWIGA KOCZOCIK-PRZEDPELSKA (1920–2023) – WSPOMNIENIA**

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**SUMMARY**

The article presents memories of Jadwiga Koczocik (1920–2023), an eminent scientist, physician and patriot, originator of clinical neurophysiology in Poznań, Poland

**Keywords:** Jadwiga Koczocik-Przedpelska, memories, rehabilitation, clinical neurophysiology

**STRESZCZENIE**

W artykule przedstawiono wspomnienia o Jadwidze Koczocik-Przedpelskiej (1920–2023), wybitnym naukowcu, lekarzu oraz patriotce, twórcy poznańskiej szkoły neurofizjologii klinicznej.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Jadwiga Koczocik-Przedpelska, wspomnienia, rehabilitacja, neurofizjologia kliniczna

**MAIN TEXT**




**Figure 1.** Prof. dr hab. Jadwiga Koczocik-Przedpelska, MD. Photo from 1975.

With deep regret, we received the news that on February 1st, 2023 died Prof. dr hab. Jadwiga Koczocik-Przedpelska M.D., a long-term member of the Council of the First Medical Faculty of the Medical Academy and later of the Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poznań, a distinguished physician of the Wiktor Dega Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Clinical Hospital, an outstanding scientist, the rehabilitation physician and neurophysiologist, founder of the Electromyography and Electroneurography Laboratory and the first Head of the Department of Pathophysiology of the Locomotor Organs in Poznań, Poland.

Jadwiga Przedpelska was born on September 27th, 1920, in Gniezno, the daughter of Maria and Józef Koczocik, a professor at the Gimnazjum of Karol Marcinkowski in Poznań.

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She graduated from the Poznań Gimnazjum of Generalowa Zamoyska. After graduating from high school in 1938, she chose to study medicine. She was one of the few women admitted to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Poznań at that time. After the German occupier entered Poznań, the Gestapo arrested her father. He was placed with a group of the Poznań teachers in Fort VII and shot in January 1940. Together with her mother, they were prisoned in a camp on Główna Street, and then were deported to the General Government, to Przeworsk.

The military veteran activity (nickname “Unnamed”) included fighting as a soldier of the National Military Organization and the Home Army, for which she was honored with the Home Army Cross and the Partisan Cross. She was a liaison officer and an instructor of paramedics, she co-founded the front-line hospital in Przeworsk. She was transporting weapons, and during the conspiracy, she met Mieczysław Przedpelski, nicknamed “Pobóg”, who became her husband after the war. She was then repressed, imprisoned by the NKVD in Przeworsk, in the Castle in Rzeszów, and sent to the labor camp in Stalinogorsk. She returned to Poland in September 1945 to Poznań, where she continued her medical studies. Arrested again by the UB in January 1946, she spent six weeks in the Poznań UB prison at Kochanowski Street.

In 1948, she began her scientific work at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Poznań. Associated with the activities of Professor Wiktor Dega, she specialized in applied physiology and organized clinical neurophysiology in Poznań from the very beginning. For 22 years she was the Head of the Department of Pathophysiology of the Locomotor Organs of the Institute of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation of the Medical Academy in Poznań and for 10 years the Deputy Director of the Institute for Science and Didactics. She has published 165 scientific papers. Author of two books “Dreams and fulfillment” and “Between prison and university”, in which she described her extraordinary

experiences during the war. The subject of her research work includes the use of electrophysiological tests in orthopedics and rehabilitation, original studies on diabetic neuropathy, post-polio syndrome, and neurophysiological aspects in oncology. She was the promoter of five doctoral thesis proceedings in the field of clinical neurophysiology and the habilitation procedure. She was one of the first Polish authors to publish papers in such renowned foreign journals as *Electroencephalography* and *Clinical Neurophysiology*. It can be safely said that her pioneering work in organizing the Electromyography and Electroneurography Laboratory at the Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Clinical Hospital No. 4 contributed to the development of clinical neurophysiology in Poland.

I had the pleasure of working permanently with Prof. dr hab. Koczocik-Przedpelska M.D. since 1991, when she handed over the management to my Mentor – Prof. dr hab. Kazimierz Grottel M.D., although she shared her scientific interests much earlier, it turned out wonderfully and I was very lucky that she was a member of the Committee of my doctoral and postdoctoral dissertation at the Medical Academy in Poznań. For 8 years, she passed on to me her knowledge of clinical neurophysiology, she often repeated...” it’s not just science, it’s art”... This has always been the motto of her clinical work.

The professor taught me and other colleagues not only the theory and practice of clinical neurophysiology but also empathy and understanding for patients, the precision of diagnostic procedures, and the discipline of scientific work. They were unforgettable and valuable experiences that I still use. While learning how to examine patients from her, I still had the impression that “apart from the Professor’s watchful eye”, something funny was about to happen, she was a person with a peculiar but very nice sense of humor. Professor’s office at the Hospital at 28 Czerwca 1956 r., has a window overlooking chestnut trees, which are inhabited by jackdaws with the first signs of spring. The Professor was



**Figure 2.** Photo from 1993, from the period of work at the Institute of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. Seated from left: Prof. dr hab. Kazimiera Milanowska M.D., Prof. dr hab. Wiktor Dega M.D., prof. dr hab. med. Jadwiga Koczocik-Przedpelska M.D. and Prof. dr hab. Kazimierz Grottel M.D.

sipping coffee by the windowsill and was able to colorfully marvel at this phenomenon every year, just like Professor Kazimierz Grottel and me. She made this place something magical.

The funeral of Jadwiga Koczocik-Przedpelska took place at the cemetery in Skórzewo, on Saturday, February 4th, 2023 at 10.00.

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