Professor Waldemar L.Olszewski

Born in Piastów/Warsaw, Poland in a family of landowners in Central Poland with father a linguist and banking specialist. Received General Certificate of Education in 1948 in Warsaw. Started university studies first at Faculty of Law, Warsaw University in 1948 (through 1950) to change for Faculty of Medicine in 1949. Graduated in 1954, passed Board in Surgery exams in 1962. Received degree of PhD in 19962 and D.Science in 1968. Since 1970 associate professor at the Dept. of Surgery, Medical Academy, and Medical Research Center, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, since 1978 until now full professor at the same centers including since 1997 chairman of Clinical Department of Surgery, Ministry of Internal Affaires/Polish Academy of Science Hospital, Warsaw. Received postgraduate training and carried out research studies at Hammersmith Hospital, London during the period 1962-63, then at Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA, between 1968 and 1970. Worked at City Hospital#4, Warsaw, then Dept. of Surgery, Medical Academy, and Medical Research Center, Warsaw as head of Dept. of Surgical Research & Transplantation and since 1997 as Chief of Clinical Department of Surgery, Ministry of Internal Affaires/Polish Academy of Sciences Hospital, Warsaw. Other professional positions include Visiting Professor at Radiumhospitalet, Oslo,(since 1976-), St.Bartholomew's Medical School, London (since 1994-), Research Officer World Health Organization, Madras-Pondicherry-Benares, India (since 1992-). Served as President of European Society for Surgical Research in 1977-78, President of International Society of Lymphology in 1989-91, President of Polish Society for Immunology in 1995-98. Served also as member of editorial boards of many international medical journals among them Lymphology (USA), International Angiology (GB), Central European Journal of Immunology (Poland), Phlebolinfologia (Spain), Cell Transplantation (USA), Lymphatic Research and Biology (USA), US-Chinese Journal of Lymphology and Oncology (China), Indian Medical Research J (India). Doctor Honoris Causa Universita di Genova, Italy (2005). Awards of the Interantional Society of Lymphology (USA) (1975), National Lymphedema Network USA (2006), Lymphatic Research Foundation NIH (USA) 2006, American Society of Lymphology USA (2007), Polish Academy of Sciences (2006).

Clinical and research interests comprise vascular surgery, transplantation, physiology and surgery of the lymphatic system, and immunology. Published around 600 publications, 7 scientific books among them Peripheral Lymph - formation and

immune function (CRC Press, USA, 1985), In Vivo Immune Cell Migration (CRC Press, USA, 1987), Handbook of Microsurgery (CRC Press, USA 1987) and Lymph Stasis - pathophysiology, diagnosis and treatment (CRC Press, USA, 1991).

Main scientific contributions include designing and introducing into clinical practice the surgical lympho-venous shunts (1966), discovery of spontaneous rhythmic lymphatic contractility in humans (1980), proving that bacterial factor is responsible for development of human limb lymphedema (1994), introducing low-dose, long-term penicillin administration for prevention of chronic dermatitis and lymphangitis in Asian countries (1996), detecting the phenomenon of non-specific elimination of cell grafts (1990), preservation of tissues for transplantation in dehydrating sodium chloride (2003).

At present is at the Medical Research Center, Polish Academy of Sciences (Head of Dept) and Ministry of Internal Affaires Clinical Hospital (Chief Consultant), Warsaw, Poland.

Main publications on lymphatic system:

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18. Olszewski W.L. The treatment of lymphedema of the extremities with microsurgical lympho-venous anastomoses. Int Angiol, 1988, 7(4), 312-21.
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