



Editorial

VI PhD Students National Conference of Life Sciences “BioOpen”

RAFAŁ SZELENBERGER ¹, ANGELA DZIEDZIC ¹, ANNA WŁUKA ²

PATRYCJA GRALEWSKA ³, ANNA JANASZEWSKA ⁴

¹ University of Lodz, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Department of General Biochemistry, Biochemistry, Pomorska 141/143, 90-236 Lodz, Poland

² University of Lodz, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Department of Biophysics of Environmental Pollution, Pomorska 141/143, 90-236 Lodz, Poland

³ University of Lodz, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Department of Medical Biophysics, Pomorska 141/143, 90-236 Lodz, Poland

⁴ University of Lodz, Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Department of General Biophysics, Pomorska 141/143, 90-236 Lodz, Poland

E-mail: anna.janaszewska@biol.uni.lodz.pl

The PhD Students National Conference of Life Sciences – “BioOpen” was held for the first time at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection of the University of Lodz in 2015. The conference was organized by doctoral students of the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, University of Lodz, supported by the faculty staff. The patronage over this event was taken by: Rector of the University of Lodz, Prof. Włodzimierz Nykiel, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection, Prof. Elżbieta Żądzińska, Polish Biophysical Society, as well as the Director of the Institute of Medical Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Prof. Jarosław Dziadek. This event was also part of the Doctoral Science Week initiative and the 15th Festival of Science, Technology and Art. During the conference, lectures were presented by outstanding guests from the world of science and young scientists from all over the country. The conference was a place for presenting the achievements of numerous research teams, exchanging valuable experiences in the field of research and demonstrating the achievements of young doctoral students. During these conference, doctoral students inspired each other to seek answers to their questions.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, after a one-year break, it was decided to organize this year’s edition of the conference on-line, without having to pay participation fees. The conference was divided into four thematic sessions: ecology and environmental protection, biotechnology and genetic engineering, molecular and medical biology as well as microbiology and immunology.

The wide thematic profile of the conference allowed to show the diversity of research work in the field of biology, which combines works in the field of microbiology, biotechnology, biochemistry, biophysics, plant and animal physiology, cell biology and other disciplines. The possibility of linking biological work with other disciplines was also shown, which may result in the creation of interdisciplinary projects in the future.

Folia Biologica et Oecologica is a journal dedicated mainly to young scientists, to whom we can offer support during the entire publication process, as well as professional linguistic proofreading. Therefore, already in 2019, talks were initiated with the organizers of the conference for young scientists that *Folia Biologica et*

Oecologica will participate in the “BioOpen” conference organized at the Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection of the University of Lodz.

Thanks to the obtained funding from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, as part of the “Support for scientific journals” program, we have provided free, professional proofreading in English of each scientific article and post-conference application accepted for publication. We hope that in this way we will help many young scientists to start their scientific careers and encourage them to continue publishing in English in journals with an international range.

This special issue includes both review and research articles on the latest advances and fundamental principles in the broadly understood field of biology. The guest editors are very grateful to those who have made their contribution to this edition with manuscripts, as well as to those who have expertly reviewed it. We hope that the next benefit of this issue will be to arouse the interest of the scientific community composed of advanced researchers and academic students in the topics of young researchers publications.