

XXXVIII Meeting of the Polish Astronomical Society in Zielona Góra

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XXXVIII Congress of the Polish Astronomical Society (PAS) took place on 11–14 Sep. 2017 in Zielona Góra in the Planetarium Venus. The main host of the meeting was Janusz Gil Institute of Astronomy¹ University of Zielona Góra in cooperation with the Kepler Science Center Planetarium Venus², new institution promoting science recently established in Zielona Góra. The honorary patronage over the XXXVIII PAS Congress was taken by: Minister of Science and Higher Education – Jarosław Gowin, Rector of the University of Zielona Góra – prof. Tadeusz Kuczyński, Marshal of the Lubuskie Voivodship – Elżbieta Polak, and President of Zielona Góra – Janusz Kubicki. Media patronage was taken by: the journal and portal *Urania* – *Postępy Astronomii*, *Radio West*, and *Gazeta Lubuska* journal.

According to our expectations, the Congress was a great event for Polish astronomy. It accumulated 170 participants including astronomers from Poland and abroad. This year, guests from abroad have been exceptionally numerous, as astronomical topics covered in Zielona Góra require participation in international research groups.

Many great guests accepted our invitation, among others Aleksander Wolszczan (The Pennsylvania State University, USA), Jason Hessels (ASTRON Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy), Alexander Drabent (Thüringer Landessternwarte, TLS, Germany), Noam Libeskind (Leibnitz Institut-fur Astrophysik Potsdam, Germany), Tanja Hinderer (Radboud University, The Netherlands). A full list of participants is given on the meeting website³.

As part of the Congress, nine sessions took place including one on the history of astronomy and one on popularization and promotion of science. The topics of the scientific session were: astronomy of gravitational waves, radioastronomy and LO-FAR/POLFAR, exoplanets and solar system, stellar astrophysics, cosmology, high energy astrophysics, and participation of the Polish entities in instrumental projects. During the conference, the review of main research topics undertaken by the Polish research institutes and international research groups was presented. Over 68 lectures and 76 posters were delivered.

During the Congress prizes and honorary awards have been presented. The most prestigious PAS prize is the Medal of Bohdan Paczyński that was established in 2011. The third laureate of the Paczyński Medal is the Polish astronomer prof. Aleksander Wolszczan discoverer of the first extrasolar planets. On the day of the opening of the meeting, prof. Wolszczan gave a lecture traditionally named Bohdan Paczyński's lecture. Two other awards were presented. Medal of Włodzimierz Zonn for outstanding

¹<http://astro.ia.uz.zgora.pl>

²<http://planetariumvenus.pl>

³<https://www.pta.edu.pl/zjazd38/>

achievements in popularization of astronomy was awarded to Bogdan Wszolek, and the Award for Young Scientists was given to Przemysław Mróz.

During the meeting, the General Assembly of the Members, which is the highest authority of the Society, was held, and the new Main Board Members have been selected for a four year term. The new president of PAS became prof. Marek Sarna from the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

For the first time, we invited astronomers who are professionally involved in popularization of science, to give lectures during the special session which took place on Sept. 14th. All scheduled tasks were completed as planned. Additionally, the lecture open for public, given by prof. Dorota Gondek-Rosińska on the subject of newly discovered gravitational waves, was held in Planetarium Venus. There were three social events organized: the bonfire in Ochla, the trip to the local vineyard Miłosz Winery in Łaz (15 km from Zielona Góra), and the conference dinner at Palmiarnia Restaurant.

We are grateful to the Scientific Organizing Committee, chaired by Giorgi Melikidze, for putting together an exciting program and to the Local Organizing Committee for making the organization smooth. The XXXVIII PAS Congress received strong support from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education through the dissemination of science grant (704/P-DUN/2017), and from Janusz Gil Institute of Astronomy University of Zielona Góra.

The organizers would also like to thank all the lecturers and students — it was your presence and enthusiasm which made this biggest meeting of professional astronomers in Poland a unique and memorable event. In this volume we present the papers written by some of the lecturers of the Congress. We hope these papers will become a valuable scientific reference for all the readers. Thank you for coming to Zielona Góra and see you in Olsztyn in two years!



The most prestigious PAS prize, the Medal of Bohdan Paczyński, was presented to prof. Aleksander Wolszczan by the PAS President prof. Agnieszka Kryszczyńska (phot. Kazimierz Adamczewski)



Prof. Aleksander Wolszczan during the Bohdan Paczyński lecture (phot. Kazimierz Adamczewski)



Award for Young Scientists was presented to Przemysław Mróz by the PAS President prof. Agnieszka Kryszczyńska (phot. Kazimierz Adamczewski)



Medal of Włodzimierz Zonn for outstanding achievements in popularization of astronomy was awarded to dr Bogdan Wszolek (phot. Kazimierz Adamczewski)