**Laudation of Prof. Dr. Andrzej Wiecek**

Andrzej Wiecek, head of the Department of Nephrology, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases at the Medical University of Silesia has been closely connected with our University for more than a decade. He began his scientific career with a scientific scholarship in the Department of Nephrology at the University of Heidelberg in Germany under the leadership of the world famous Prof. Eberhard Ritz. He habilitated in 1990.

Professor Wiecek specializes in internal medicine, nephrology, hypertension, clinical transplantation and angiology. He has been head of the Department of Nephrology, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases at the Medical University of Silesia since 2000. He has been member of the Board of Directors of the KDIGO (Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes). Presently, he is a member of the KDIGO Guidelines Implementation Task Force and Chairman of its Central and Eastern Europe division. He is Honorary Member of the Romanian Society of Nephrology. Furthermore, Professor Wiecek is a member of the following: the European Renal Best Practice, the ERA-EDTA (European Renal Association - European Dialysis and Transplant Association) Working Group, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the ERA-EDTA Scientific Advisory Board. He is a former President of the Polish Society of Nephrology and of the Polish Society of Hypertension. He has been member of the Editorial Boards of the American Journal of Kidney Disease, Clinical Nephrology, and Nephrology Dialysis and Transplantation.

Professor Wiecek’s main scientific interests are: Pathogenesis and clinical aspects of primary and secondary forms of arterial hypertension, hormonal abnormalities in uremia, kidney transplant and hypertensive patients, endocrine function of the kidney and adipose tissue, and clinical aspects of anemia management in CKD patients.

He has published 345 papers as of March 2011, with a total impact factor of 243, a citation index of 2380, and a Hirsch Index of 24.

Professor Wiecek has been giving lectures and consultations in Hungary regularly, for more than a decade. He is a regular member of the teaching ward of the Nephrology Summer School in Budapest. He supports the interests of Hungarian Nephrology and Semmelweis University from inside and outside using the opportunities deriving from his position. The two institutions perform research together in the field of nephrology together and plan to conduct further common investigations within the European FP7 and ERA-EDTA. Professor Wiecek is an outstanding professor performing teaching, research and scientific work in not only the East-Central European region, but in the whole of Europe.