

VIII. SUMMARY

OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY AT THE MEDICAL ACADEMY IN BIALYSTOK FROM 1950 TO 1987

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the theme of the history and development of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Medical Academy in Bialystok, not discussed so far in the scientific environment. This choice was dictated, among others, by the originality of the subject, the specificity of functioning, pioneering research and prominent persons who created the Bialystok obstetric - gynaecological centre. In the literature of the subject, there is no comprehensive study of the topic of the first in vitro fertilization in Poland. This is the first work on the history of obstetrics and gynaecology in north-eastern Poland.

The analysis of source materials, legal acts and reporting data shows that the establishment of the Medical Academy in Bialystok and the creation of the Department and the Clinic of Obstetrics and Women's Diseases had a significant impact on development of obstetrics and gynaecology in Bialystok and north-eastern Poland. The creation of the Medical Academy in Bialystok was extremely difficult. The city was destroyed after World War II, there was shortage of almost everything. In 1949, only 45 doctors and two professors worked in Bialystok. On January 1, 1950, the Medical Academy in Bialystok with the Faculty of Medicine was established by the government order. It was the beginning of the creation of the obstetric-gynaecological section. On September 1, 1953, professor Stefan Soszka took up the management of the Obstetrics and Women's Diseases Clinic of the Medical Academy in Bialystok. Creating a new unit in these conditions was an expression of strength and courage of the most ambitious doctors in the Clinic. The history of obstetrics and gynaecology in Bialystok deserves to be documented and recorded also in the context of the need to save and preserve the academic traditions. The activity of both the Department and the Clinic, and also the Institute of Obstetrics of AMB depended, to a very large extent, on the vision and commitment of the management and the employment and training of properly qualified medical personnel. Therefore, the next goal of the dissertation was to present the figures of doctors-obstetricians-gynaecologists who organized the obstetrics-gynaecological section in Bialystok and the region. They organized obstetrics and gynaecology practically from scratch. In addition to their highly-valued professional skills, they were also community workers, aware of their special mission. The issue of the development of obstetrics and gynaecology is

presented in the historical context from the eighteenth century - the Institute of Midwifery, through city hospitals in the nineteenth century and in the first half of the twentieth century.

This dissertation expands knowledge about the obstetric-gynaecological section of not only Bialystok but also the whole north-eastern Poland. It is based on many archival sources. A large part of them has never been used for research.

The work consists of five chapters. Chapter I discusses the origins and creation of the Medical Academy in Bialystok in 1950. The first years of AMB's activity in the destroyed city after the Second World War are described. Chapter II covers the years 1953 - 1971, in which the Department and the Clinic of Obstetrics and Women's Diseases of AMB are characterized. The work of I and II Clinic of Obstetrics and Women's Diseases of AMB is also presented. In the next Chapter III, the Institute of Obstetrics of the Medical Academy in Bialystok, which was operating since 1971, is of interest. The final date in this chapter is 1987. Chapter IV describes the first in vitro fertilization in Poland, from which on November 12, 1987, the first child - a girl was born at the AMB Gynaecology Clinic. This chapter also includes biographical entries of the Team that carried out the first in vitro fertilization in Poland. Chapter V presents the profiles of pioneers of Bialystok obstetrics and gynaecology. They are outstanding individuals who created the Department and the Clinic of Obstetrics and Women's Diseases and next the Institute of Midwifery at AMB. Thanks to them, gynaecology and obstetrics developed in the north-east Poland.