

## In Memoriam

### Professor Andrzej Stepnowski



1940–2024

Professor Andrzej Stepnowski was born in Biała Podlaska on 4 January 1940, the son of a lawyer couple who settled in Gdańsk after the war. Between 1958 and 1964, he studied at the then Faculty of Communications of Gdańsk University of Technology, and was a prominent member of the board of the Polish Students' Association. In 1964, he earned his master's degree in electronics with a focus on radiolocation, and became an assistant at the Department of Radionavigation, where he conducted hydroacoustics research. This research resulted in the development of a world-class computer-based system for fish stock estimation, which was installed aboard the RV *Profesor Siedlecki* as part of the FAO research programme. Professor Andrzej Stepnowski was awarded the title of Master of Polish Technology for his work. After passing his doctoral examination with distinction in 1974, he went on to obtain his habilitation degree (postdoctoral degree) in 1992. His research in both cases was related to the hydroacoustics of fishing. In 2004, he was awarded the title of professor.

Between 1983 and 1985, he was the head of the Department of Hydroacoustics, and from 1994 to 1999, he chaired the Department of Environmental Acoustics, and then became the head of the Department of Telemonitoring Systems and Department of Geoinformatics Systems – he held these positions until 2011.

From 1996 to 1999, he was the Vice-Dean for Research at the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics, and served as the Vice-President for research of the Gdańsk University of Technology between 2002 and 2005.

Professor Stepnowski was a world-renowned expert on underwater acoustics, and participated in research internship programmes at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US and the IRPeM Research Institute of the National Research Council of Italy in Ancona. He was also a visiting professor at four universities around the world – in the US, Canada, Turkey and Indonesia – he also served as a UN expert on food security and agriculture, editor for the *Acta Acustica* journal and vice president for Europe of the IEEE National Security Committee.

In the 2000s, Professor Stepnowski's research interests also included geoinformatics, an important aspect of which is the collection of data using hydroacoustic methods. He was the founder and later also the chair of the supervisory board of C-Map Poland, the country's pioneering geoinformatics business, which became Jeppesen Poland, part of the Boeing corporation, in 2007.

Professor Stepnowski's scholarly achievements include two monographs, more than 250 research papers, eight patents and more than 30 successful research and

implementation projects. He was the advisor for seven successful doctoral students, three of whom would go on to earn habilitation degrees (postdoctoral degrees). The mobile satellite urban navigation system for the visually impaired, Voice Maps, developed under his supervision, was awarded a gold medal at the Technological Innovation Fair in Brussels in 2014.

Professor Stepnowski was also a prominent contributor to several scientific societies. He was a member of the Acoustics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sci-

ences and a member and secretary general of the Polish Acoustics Society, as well as organiser of the Hydroacoustics Symposia and various international acoustics conferences.

He was awarded a Knight's Cross and an Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, a Medal of the Commission of National Education and a Medal of Merit for the Gdańsk University of Technology.

Professor Roman Salamon