

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity and make a few personal remarks why we all and I personally, as the President of the 14th International Congress of Radiation Research, would be very happy and proud should you decide to meet us on a joint congress in Poland in 2011.

I cannot imagine the congress without representatives of the Radiation Research Society and I would like to cordially invite you all to come to Warsaw in 2011.

There are many reasons why we have applied for rights to organize the 14th ICRR in Poland and some of them are explained in our letter signed by Professor Marek Janiak, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, but let me share a few thoughts of more personal nature not included there.

The congress takes place in 2011, which marks a 100-year anniversary of Maria Skłodowska-Curie becoming the first human, and the only woman, to win two Nobel Prizes. Only three other people including Americans Linus Pauling and John Bardeen achieved such a feat.

We all know the words from the Nobel Committee's justification regarding her achievements, but let me bring to your attention one more quote:

"In the case of radium isolation was completely successful but required several years of unremitting effort. In an unusual move, Curie intentionally did not patent the radium isolation process, instead leaving it open so the scientific community could research unhindered..."

Madame Skłodowska-Curie, one of the few hallmark figures in radiation research history, has *intentionally* not patented the procedure, giving the formulae for isolation of radium to the public, to the American engineers. The unusual move was not in vain, as it started research, one we would today call global, to a benefit of the mankind.

Let me highlight three more events from Polish-born Madame Curie's life, in which the America plays a pivotal role and which had extraordinary impact on radiation research and its service to mankind:

- 2011 also marks a 90th anniversary of Maria Skłodowska-Curie's first trip to the US, during which she not only received *honoris causa* titles from distinguished universities of Philadelphia and Columbia, but also thanks to Marie "Missy" Meloney's mission received a single gram of radium from the President Warren Harding himself. She would later write the single gram, received as a gift from "The women of America" had the greatest value for her and her institute in Paris.
- This year we are celebrating a 95th anniversary of Madame Curie's efforts to aide the First World War victims, who in 1914 organized radiological and therapeutic services at the war's frontlines and held training courses for American doctors and nurses.
- During her second trip to the America in 1929, which we also celebrate now, she was given, again thanks to efforts of Madame Meloney, the second single gram of radium by the President Herbert Hoover, this time to aide the Radium Institute in Warsaw.

Dear President of the RRS, Dear all Colleagues, can we imagine how the radiation research would look today without these events, without Madame Curie's strong belief the radiation science should exceed boundaries, political and organizational constraints and limitations in order to best achieve its main goal, that is to help the needing.

How could we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Madame Curie's second Nobel Prize without the American scientists and without the Radiation Research Society?

With all my heart I hope that on December 11, 98 years after Madame Curie gave a Nobel Prize lecture in Stockholm, you will agree to join us in Warsaw on a joint Radiation Research Congress paying a tribute to Madame Curie's beliefs and in line with Nobel Prize founder's idea that his prize is given *"to those who, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind"*.

With the deepest regards and hopes

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