



Mineralogical Society of Poland

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THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTRON MICROPROBE LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

On June 17–18, 2024, a scientific conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the electron microprobe laboratory took place at the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw, Poland under the auspices of the Polish Mineralogical Society.

In the beginning, Prof. Bogusław Bagiński, together with the initiator of the electron microprobe laboratory, Prof. Andrzej Kozłowski, took everyone down memory lane, recalling the quarter-century history of this unit. They paid special attention to the role of the staff, particularly the late Dr. Piotr Dzierżanowski and Ms. Lidia Jeżak, who, through their dedication, created a unique laboratory where anyone needing chemical composition analysis in a micro-area could perform it quickly and precisely with their assistance in a friendly, pleasant atmosphere. The memory of Dr. Piotr Dzierżanowski, the first head and organizer of the microprobe laboratory, was honored with a commemorative plaque, and the laboratory has been named after him (FIG. 1). Currently, the work of Piotr and Lidia is successfully continued by Dr. Petras Jokubauskas and Dr. Beata Marciniak-Maliszewska, who have also developed new techniques, making the place perfect for performing cutting-edge science.



FIGURE 1 The unveiling of a plaque dedicated to Dr. Piotr Dzierżanowski, whose name was given to the laboratory, by Vice-Rector Prof. Zygmunt Lalak and Piotr's wife, Iza Dzierżanowska, at the entrance to the electron microprobe laboratory.

The first day of the conference was devoted to presentations of the main scientific achievements conducted in the electron microprobe laboratory over the past 25 years—and there were plenty, as until now, over 500,000 micro-area chemical analyses have been conducted in the lab with more than 300 articles published in international journals. Moreover, 79 new mineral phases were described and approved by the IMA. The invited talks were given by Prof. Irina and Evgenij Gałuskin, and Prof. Adam Pieczka, who presented their research on new mineral phases often developed in collaboration with Dr. Piotr Dzierżanowski. Invited talks were also presented by international guests, including Prof. Daniel Harlov from GFZ Potsdam, Germany; Prof. Gražina Skridlaite from the Institute of Geology and Geography in Vilnius, Lithuania; and Prof. Leonid Shumlyansky from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, Ukraine. A total of 90 participants from several countries (including 15 international guests) attended the first day's proceedings (FIG. 2).



FIGURE 2 Diagram showing that participants arrived from all over Poland and abroad to celebrate the anniversary.

The second day of the conference included a series of workshops introducing participants to new analytical tools available at the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw, which, like the electron microprobe, are available to all scientists who wish to use analytical techniques in their work. The workshop covered activities on:

- advanced analytical techniques allowing for high-quality microprobe analyses (FIG. 3),
- using new techniques resulting from combining Raman spectroscopy with scanning microscopy in a single research system,
- the basics of electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) for studying mineral structures using a scanning electron microscope,
- advanced techniques for analyzing the composition and imaging fresh rock and mineral samples on a digital optical microscope and chemical composition analyzer by Keyence.

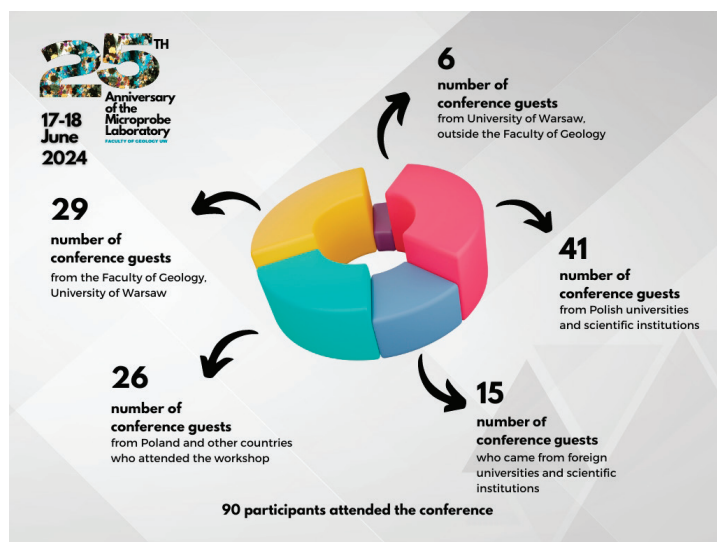


FIGURE 3 Workshop on advanced analytical techniques in the electron microprobe laboratory led by Dr. Petras Jokubauskas.

We look forward to welcoming everyone again for the next celebration in another 25 years!!