

## OBITUARY

## Obituary: Marcin Barlik (1944 – 2018)

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Marcin Barlik, age 73, passed away suddenly on 22 March 2018. He was a distinguished researcher, specialist in the field of physical geodesy, geodetic gravimetry and geophysical geodesy problems. He was also a dedicated tutor of a few generations of Polish geodesists.

Marcin Barlik received the degree of Master of Science in geodesy in 1968 at the Warsaw University of Technology (WUT). In 1969 he started his professional carrier in the Department of Geodesy of WUT, first as a trainee and then as an assistant, assistant professor, associate professor and finally a full professor. From 1972, he was also lecturing at the Military University of Technology in Warsaw. He lectured overseas, namely in 1978–1979 at the University of Baghdad, College of Engineering, and in 1984 at the l’Institut Cartographique Nationale in Algiers where he was lecturing.

Marcin Barlik received a PhD in technical sciences in 1976 and DSc (habilitation) in 1983, both at WUT. In 1995 he was awarded an academic title of professor of technical sciences. Since 2001 he was employed on the position of the ordinary professor. He completed scientific internships at the Moscow Institute of Engineers of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography (1984); Royal University of Technology (Stockholm, 1985); Technical University of Dresden (1986); Czech Technical University in Prague (1988). He was an author/co-author of five academic textbooks, over 120 articles in Polish and a dozen in foreign scientific journals as well as over 100 presentations on scientific symposia and conferences. Since 2012 he was the editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Reports on Geodesy and Geoinformatics*.

Marcin Barlik was a member of the team developing the design of African Geodetic Continental Network (1981) as well as teams elaborating expert reports for the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography. He organized the first Polish-Spanish gravimetric experiment with the use of the Spanish gravimetric control and Robledo NASA station in the vicinity of Madrid (1993). He took part in the establishment of a gravity control



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in Poland in 1993–1998 and then in its modernization in 2007–2014. Marcin Barlik was a leader of a few research projects. His research on the variation of the plumb line with the use of gravity data in the Jozefoslaw Astrogeodetic Observatory of WUT and the Borowiec Astrogeodynamic Observatory of the Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences resulted in the cooperation with the Shanghai Astronomical Observatory.

For about 10 years Marcin Barlik was involved in international scientific activities. From 1991 to 1994 he was a National Representative in the Section III — Determination of Earth's Gravity Field — of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), and in 1995–1999 a senior member of the IAG Special Study Group 5.175: Interannual Variations of the Vertical and Their Interpretation. He was also active in the Central European Geodynamical Project (CERGOP) in which from 1994 to 1998 he chaired the 7th CERGOP Central European Initiative Project Study Group: Central Europe Gravity Networks.

At the Warsaw University of Technology he was a member of the University Senate (1996–2008), Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography (1991–1996; 2002–2008), Head of the Department of Geodesy and Geodetic Astronomy (2008–2012), capitulary of the WUT Medal, member of the Program Council and the Competition Committee of the Center for Advanced Studies of WUT.

Majority of scientific activities of Marcin Barlik were focused on national scientific community, where he played a few most distinguished roles. Since 1996 he was a member of the Committee on Geodesy of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and in 2009–2015 its Chairman. From 2003 to 2016 he was a member of the Central Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles.

In the years 2009–2015 he was a member of the Polish National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

Marcin Barlik supervised the scientific development of numerous young researchers: over 100 MSc and BSc as well as five PhD students. He was the reviewer of 11 PhD thesis, five DSc proceedings and twice the referee in the procedure connected with granting the academic title of professor.

Recognition of the achievements of Marcin Barlik was reflected in awarding him scientific prizes and medals, the most important of which are state awards: Golden Cross of Merit, Medal of the National Education Commission, Knight's Cross of the Medal of Polonia Restituta, and distinctions awarded by universities: Meritorious for the Warsaw University of Technology, Meritorious for the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences and Meritorious for the Military University of Technology. In 2015, he was awarded the highest academic title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the Hugo Kołłątaj University of Agriculture in Krakow.

Professor Marcin Barlik was an outstanding scholar, undisputed authority in the area of geodesy, and at the same time a modest and kind man. He was very much appreciated by both colleagues and students. His death surprised everyone. The day before his death he participated in the discussion concerning the organization of the scientific conference on geodetic control planned for September 2018, and nothing indicated his health problems. Geodetic community involved in research, education and surveying and mapping practice suffered irreparable loss.