

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Wiesław J. Kozek

PARASITOLOGIST • EDUCATOR • MENTOR



A life devoted to parasitology, education, and service

Faculty, staff, and students remember Dr. Kozek with great fondness for his kind spirit, devoted mentorship, and distinguished scientific contributions to parasitology. His legacy will remain in our hearts and in the generations he inspired.

Sunday, September 6 | 3:00-8:00 p.m.

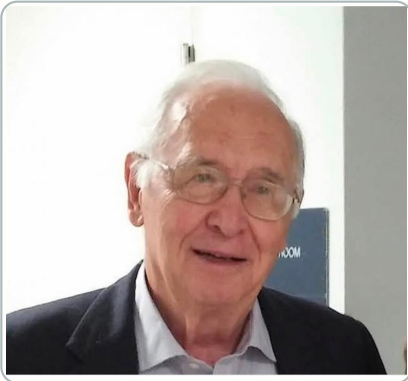
Ehret Memorial

With heartfelt remembrance

Faculty, Staff, and Students

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

A LIFE IN SCIENCE AND SERVICE



Dr. Wiesław J. Kozek

Parasitologist • Educator • Mentor

A Polish scientist who chose
Puerto Rico as his home.

University of Puerto Rico
Medical Sciences Campus

Academic Background and Career

Dr. Wiesław J. Kozek was an esteemed parasitologist and educator whose long career helped shape the teaching and study of medical parasitology in Puerto Rico. He earned his Ph.D. in Medical Parasitology from Tulane University, where he trained in classical parasitology, tropical medicine, and electron microscopy.

After choosing Puerto Rico as his home, he joined the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus and served for decades as a Full Professor in the former Department of Microbiology and Medical Zoology. In addition to teaching, he served the department as a mentor and search-committee chair and contributed to international scientific efforts, including initiatives associated with the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

Scientific Contributions

Dr. Kozek was widely recognized for applying advanced light, transmission, and scanning electron microscopy to investigate the anatomy, ultrastructure, development, and life cycles of medically important parasitic nematodes. His careful integration of microscopy and parasite biology linked morphology with physiology, host responses, and diagnostic identification.

Among his most influential achievements were pioneering studies of *Wolbachia* endosymbionts within filarial nematodes, including *Dirofilaria immitis*, *Litomosoides sigmodontis*, and *Onchocerca volvulus*. His work contributed to understanding the essential relationship between these bacteria and filarial survival and embryogenesis, helping establish the scientific basis for antibiotic approaches to filarial disease.

He also published important studies on the molting and larval development of *Trichinella spiralis* and on the morphology of *Mansonella*, *Toxocara canis*, *Trichuris trichiura*, and other helminths of medical importance.

A Lasting Legacy

Throughout his career, Dr. Kozek educated and mentored generations of medical students, graduate researchers, and laboratory professionals across Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Colleagues and students will remember not only his scholarship, but also his generosity, integrity, humility, and kindness. His scientific contributions and the lives he touched remain an enduring part of our departmental history.

In grateful remembrance

Department of Microbiology and Immunology • UPR Medical Sciences Campus