It is with great sadness that we communicate the recent passing of Professor Leokadia Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz, emeritus professor of the University of Łódź, former chairman of the Department of Cytobiochemistry of the University of Łódź. Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz died on February 27, 2017 at the age of 94. She was outstanding Polish biochemist who devoted her scientific career to the field of biochemistry of cell nucleus.

Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz was born on April 1, 1923 in Lida (now Belarus). Since 1945 until her death she lived in Łódź. She graduated from Medical Academy of Łódź, now known as Medical University of Łódź in 1951 with a diploma in medical dentistry and in 1963 with diploma in medicine. In April 1950 Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz was employed in the Department of Biochemistry created in 1945 by Professor Antoni Dmochowski at the Faculty of Mathematics and Biological Sciences (now Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection) of the University of Łódź. She was affiliated with the University of Łódź until retired in 1993. At the University of Łódź Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz in 1961 was granted with Ph.D. and in 1965 with D.Sc. degrees in natural sciences. The professor and full professor (professor ordinarius) titles she obtained in 1973 and 1986, respectively. A great impact on her academic career had a number of research internships in Institut de Biologie Physico-Chemique in Paris, France and at the University of Texas, M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, USA.

Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz scientific interests focused on the nuclear proteins and their involvement in structure and function of the cell nuclei of normal and pathological tissues. She was the pioneer in the field of deoxyribonucleoproteins and the author of the first in polish literature monograph on histones (PWN 1967). Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz was recognized as excellent educator, mentor and leader for multiple generations of biochemistry students. She is the author of academic textbook entitled Cytobiochemia. Biochemia niektórych struktur komórkowych (PWN 2002 last edition) still recommended to biology students, for which she was awarded the prize Ministry of Scientific Education and Polish Biochemical Society. Professor L. Kłyszejko-Stefanowicz received numerous distinguished rewards and honors, amongst others Knight’s Cross of Polonia Restituta (1974) and Medal of the Commission of National Education (1993).

She will be remembered as an inspiring researcher who gained the acknowledgement and respect, outstanding academic lecturer and very friendly and modest person.