Preface

This special issue of *Acta Biochimica Polonica* presents Abstracts of oral and poster presenters during the European Conference on Cancer and Ageing. In addition to keynote and invited speakers several abstracts of young researchers have been selected for oral presentations.

The Conference is supported by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme contract number LSSM-CT-2006-037312 for the project entitled “From Cellular Senescence and Cell Death to Cancer and Ageing” (acronym SENECA).

Age is the most important demographic risk factor for many life-threatening human cancers. Recent research results point out very clearly that cancer is connected with the intrinsic process of ageing at the molecular, cellular and organismal levels. These processes include DNA damage/repair and genomic instability, other intracellular damage from oxidative stress, telomeres and telomerase, apoptosis and its regulators, replicative senescence, epigenetic changes, immune dysfunction, as well as changes in stem cell homeostasis. As tissue structure and function change with age the host-tumour relationships is also changed. Cellular senescence is a barrier for tumorigenesis but senescence of cancer cells can be induced by anticancer treatment. SENECA will facilitate a discussion of all of the above links between cancer and ageing. We were successful in attracting many scientists from cancer research to consider ageing research as an important component of their work. We believe that the initiated dialogue will help to establish sustainable links between these two closely related scientific fields, structuring research in oncogerontology.

We wish to express our appreciation to the members of the SENECA Conference Organizing Committee as well as to the members of the Scientific Board for fruitful collaboration in preparing the programme and for inviting outstanding speakers and guests. We are also grateful to all contributors who expressed their interest in the Conference and submitted these abstracts.

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