



*The **CRE**ation of the Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Sys**TE**ms [CREATE]*

666295 — CREATE — H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2015/H2020-WIDESPREAD-2014-2

Visit of Radosław Kwapiszewski - report

[WP5]

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CREATE lectures "Innovation source"

On the 6th June, 2018 the open lecture under a series of "*Innovation source*" was held at the Institute of Physical Chemistry PAS (IPC). The purpose of the above series of lectures is to update scientists' knowledge of current technological trends and innovation in chemistry-related sectors, as well as establishment of relations with business.

Radoslaw Kwapiszewski was invited to the Institute by the CREATE Project Coordinator and the ERA Chair holder, professor Robert Holyst and professor Maciej Wojtkowski, respectively. **Radoslaw Kwapiszewski** is R&D Project Manager in the Drug Discovery Department, Adamed Group. In 2001, Adamed became the first Polish pharmaceutical company to initiate research into innovative drugs (in opposition to generic drugs manufactured by majority of Polish drug companies). Currently, Adamed focuses on the areas of oncology and central nervous system diseases, carrying out the projects in cooperation with leading research facilities both in Poland and abroad.



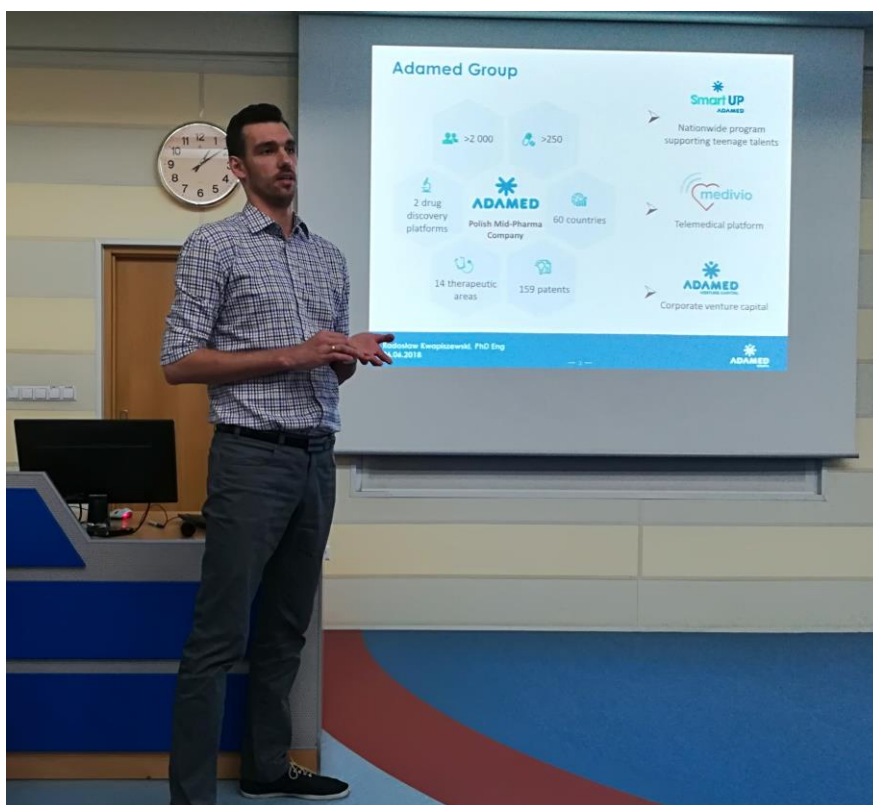
After receiving his Ph. D. degree in Chemistry from the Warsaw University of Technology, Radoslaw Kwapiszewski started working in the Adamed Group. He is currently the Head of the project "BIOCON – Development of next generation anticancer bioconjugates" within the INNOMED program operated by The National Center of Research and Development (Poland).

The main goal of the **Radoslaw Kwapiszewski** visit was to deliver a lecture "***Academic scientists and Pharmaceutical R&D: what can they offer each other?***". The whole society of IPC, with IPC researchers and doctoral students, was invited (and 57 persons signed on the attendance list).

See annex 1 for full abstract of the seminar.

Dr Radosław Kwapiszewski started with description of his career path – from a researcher at academia to R&D project manager at pharma company. He presented the profile of Adamed Group, its most important areas of interest and career development opportunities in this company. The speaker pointed out the differences between pharma and academia structure. He listed the indicators which motivate people to do science, like the thrill of new discoveries, stress level, freedom to choose your own directions, money etc. Then he discussed which factors could be found doing research in the academy in comparison with pharma. Dr Kwapiszewski contrasted his experience offering guidance to those wanting to transition between these two sectors.

During the seminar, strengths as well as limitations of both, academia and industry sectors were pointed out. Simultaneously, the speaker stressed the importance of cooperation between academia and industry, putting forward great public health victories resulting from such collaborative works.



The seminar of Radosław Kwapiszewski, assembly hall, the 6th June, 2018.

The seminar was very well received by the audience. For many of the participants, it was a great opportunity to understand and discuss possible ways of cooperation between IPC and pharma business sector. The seminar brought also an interesting point of view on possible career paths for researchers, especially for young researchers.

After the seminar, the business meeting was organized. The aim of which was to summarize the visit and discuss our guest's recommendations for the Institute. The following persons took part in a meeting:

- **Radosław Kwapiszewski** – the visiting guest
- **Professor Maciej Wojtkowski** – the ERA Chair holder, head of Department of Physical Chemistry of Biological Systems, IPC PAS
- **Agnieszka Tadrzak** – CREATE Project Manager, IPC PAS.



Discussion between prof. Maciej Wojtkowski, Radosław Kwapiszewski and Agnieszka Tadrzak (from the left).

The discussion focused on the following issues:

- possible collaboration patterns:

In particular possible ways of performing collaborative research of Adamed with academia were thoroughly discussed. Dr Kwapiszewski informed how joint projects are selected and developed. Usually an incentive comes from the company which defines general problem to be solved. After that research groups performing corresponding studies are selected, and their ideas evaluated as regards to concept soundness, technological readiness and methodology correctness. After that very limited number of projects are developed in cooperation with the company.

- other forms of reinforcing pharma-academia relations:

Adamed is open to support technological start-up initiatives also without financial engagement, offering mentoring services, consultations and accepting researchers for internship programmes.

- research topics of current interest to pharma industry:

Generally, in Poland very few companies conduct studies on innovative drugs. The companies are rather interested in looking for expired patents or patents with loopholes. The company gave a

clue which oncology drugs are of interest to everybody. Dr Kwapiszewski also suggested to focus on diagnostic instruments which may support studies of pharma.

Afterwards, dr Kwapiszewski was asked to give his opinion on IPC research programme, in particular focusing on part of it elaborated by prof. Wojtkowski. The results were reported to the European Commission under Deliverable 3.2.

The whole discussion lasted about 2 hours



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ANNEX 1.

Abstract of the seminar



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Academic scientists and Pharmaceutical R&D: what can they offer each other?

Radosław Kwapiszewski, PhD Eng

R&D Project Manager, Drug Discovery Department, Adamed Group

How significantly do Academic and Industrial research differ? What does each offer the young scientist? Should Academia and Pharma work together? What are their respective work environments like in Poland? What can you expect after switching from academia to pharma?

While these questions have been the subject of several debates and interviews so far, it is difficult to provide objective conclusions if you have not worked in both corporate and university settings. This lecture discusses and expands upon these considerations, providing observation and insight based on personal experience.



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