

# Preface

Jerzy Kąkol is a Full Professor at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1980 with his dissertation, *On inductive limits of topological vector spaces and algebras*. In 1987 he got his Habilitation with his thesis, *On singularities of non-locally convex topological vector spaces*. His research interest is related mostly to Functional Analysis and applications, Function Spaces, General and Descriptive Topology, Topological Groups, and Non-Archimedean Functional Analysis.

Professor Kąkol has published over 120 research articles. He was a co-editor of two proceedings of the *International Conferences 4th and 5th on p-adic Functional Analysis*, by Marcel Dekker, and coauthor, jointly with W. Kubis and M. López-Pellicer, of the monograph *Descriptive Topology in Selected Topics of Functional Analysis*, Springer 2011.

He has been co-organizer (and organizer) of the fourth (and fifth) *International Conference on p-adic Functional Analysis*, Nijmegen, the Netherlands 1996 (and Poznan 1998), as well as co-organizer of the sessions *Topological methods in Functional Analysis* for annual Summer Topology Conferences, Brno (Czech 2009), Kielce (Poland 2010), New York (USA 2011 and 2014). He is a Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Madrid. He has given several invited talks in Europe and in the United States of America.

In the years 1989–1991 and 1994 he was a scholar (Munich and Saarbrücken, Germany) of the prestigious A. von Humboldt scholarship and was awarded with various short-period (2–5 months) research grants at several Universities in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United States of America. He got a Visiting Professor position for the whole year 1997 at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He was a Weisman Visiting Professor at Baruch College, CUNY, Fall term, 2002. He spent two Spring Terms in 2003 and 2004 as a Visiting Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, cooperating with Prof. S. A. Saxon.

In the years 1998–2001 and 2004–2012 he was the Dean for Science at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in the Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, Poland, where currently he is member of its Senate.

In 2013, September 27 and 28, we organized in Elche the First Meeting in Topology and Functional Analysis dedicated to Prof. Jerzy Kąkol on the occasion of his 60th birthday. We appreciate the invitation of Springer to publish the

Proceedings of this Meeting and thank very much all participants for their contributions and, particularly, to the invited speakers who are the authors of the 11 chapters of these Proceedings. The first chapter deals with some aspects in the Mathematical work of Jerzy Kąkol, the targets of the next five chapters are topological and metric questions in Functional Analysis, and the last five chapters are devoted to Topological Groups, Banach spaces, Banach algebras, and Operator Theory.

Certainly, it is challenging to summarize the wide and diverse mathematical work of Prof. Kąkol, but it is more difficult to present his excellent human qualities, which are partially captured in the following words intended for Prof. Kąkol at this conference. We thank their author Aaron R. Todd (Baruch College, CUNY) for permission to use them.

Jerzy Kąkol's 60th  
 A force of nature in his 60th year,  
 Surely worthy of a celebratory conference.  
 Yet a portion of the natural world!  
 Can a person be a force of nature?  
 Still arriving from any and all directions,  
 Laying waste to the virtual landscape.  
 Leaving still, some quiet corners,  
 For useful improvements yet.  
 Welcome to this side of a marker!  
 No "humph" from us for your arrival.  
 A force of kindness, of gentleness,  
 Of good humor, and much more,  
 All worthy of celebratory words.  
 To Jerzy Kąkol, an extraordinary human being.

A. R. Todd

We have all enjoyed and benefited from the friendship of Professor Kąkol.

Valencia, April 2014

Juan Carlos Ferrando  
 Manuel López-Pellicer

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