

100 years of anti-doping research

In memoriam of Alfons Bukowski

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Abstract

Alfons Bukowski (1858-1921) is commonly regarded as pioneer of anti-doping research. In 1910, he developed a method to detect alkaloids in horses saliva. This first application of chemical analysis to doping control was connected with a series of unexpected results in horse racing which occurred in Austria at the beginning of the twentieth century. However, Bukowski is often mistakenly represented in the world's literature as a Russian chemist.

Alfons Bukowski was born in Czerniowice on the 23rd October 1858, the second son of Julian Bukowski and Barbara Borowska. After his father's death in 1864, he moved with his family to Warsaw. Bukowski studied pharmacy at Warsaw University. In 1880, he obtained the title of the so-called Provisor of Pharmacy (a higher academic degree in pharmacy) and in 1889, he received his MSc, which at that time equaled the title of Doctor. In the years 1880-1884, Bukowski worked in the chemical-court laboratory of the Medical Office as well as in the laboratory of foodstuffs testing the Holy Spirit hospital in Warsaw. He was also a junior lecturer in the Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy Department (1884-1897). In 1885, he founded his own School of Pharmacy for Assistant Pharmacists at which he lectured between 1885 and 1898. In 1897, he opened his own chemist's where he also organized an analytical laboratory and a chemical-pharmaceutical manufacturing company. Bukowski was the author of more than 100 or even 330 scientific papers in pharmacognosy, toxicology, bromatology and photochemistry, including the first Polish textbooks in these scientific areas: *Textbook for Testing Food, Foodstuffs and Others Trade Goods* (1884) and *Textbook of the Urine Analysis for Students and Pharmacists* (1888). He was a scientist member of the Warsaw Pharmaceutical Society and the editor of journal *Zdrowie* (trans. *Health*). Alfons Bukowski died in Warsaw on 29 June 1921.

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