Obituary

A tribute to Ophthalmologist Jack J. Kanski

Irina Gout-Radomska, Ophthalmologist, Head of Medical Diagnostics at Prince Charles Eye Unit, King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, UK

World-renowned ophthalmologist Jack J. Kanski passed away on January 5, 2019. He was a living legend in ophthalmology and left behind an unforgettable and invaluable legacy.

“Clinical Ophthalmology: A Systematic Approach”, the book written by this talented person, has been a bible of ophthalmology for medical students and ophthalmologists throughout recent decades. He authored more than 30 textbooks on various aspects of eye disease including cataract, glaucoma, uveitis, retinal and pediatric eye disorders.

Jack was born on August 5, 1939, in Warsaw, Poland, and was the only child of Jerzy Jordan and Adela Jozefa (Wroblewska) Kanski. His father was a senior member on the staff of Marshal Edward Śmigły-Rydz, the commander in chief of Polish forces at the start of the Second World War. After spending his preschool years with his mother in the war-devastated city of Warsaw, they had to escape from their homeland in 1946 and settled in Great Britain. This was the country where Jack spent his school years, grew as a personality and advanced in his profession. He was a talented and many-sided pupil with a special interest in natural sciences and history. Apart from doing well academically, he had a passion for swimming and football, and was a reserve for the England Schoolboys team.

Jack Kanski obtained his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Medicine degrees from London Hospital Medical College in 1963. Dr. Kanski worked as a senior house officer, surgical registrar and resident at some of the leading London hospitals such as Western Ophthalmic Hospital, Westminster Hospital, and Moorfields Eye Hospital.

In 1973, he was appointed as consultant surgeon at the Prince Charles Eye Unit in Windsor, where he spent his entire professional career. It is Jack Kanski who initiated regular meetings with discussions on interesting and uncommon clinical cases, postgraduate courses and international conferences at this unit. It is at this unit that a prominent school of ophthalmology comprising such prominent ophthalmologists as Richard Packard, James McAllister, Andrew Pearson, Brad Bowling and Ken Nischal, was established under the leadership of Dr Kanski. Many well-known ophthalmologists from Great Britain and elsewhere have been trainees at the Prince Charles Eye Unit and consider themselves pupils of Jack Kanski.

Early on, he became aware of the importance of supplying textbooks with a brief and accessible description of cases and representative figures of the eye in health and disease. Jack began collecting and systematizing interesting cases, and presenting them at the Eye Unit. Dr Kanski collected numerous detailed cases with schematics and clinical color photographs, and these were the precursors of his books. He had a special interest in uveal disease in adolescents.

The first of his textbooks, “Clinical Ophthalmology”, was published in 1984. Subsequently, it was being updated with new editions and material on advanced diagnostic techniques and treatment methods for eye disease. An additional value of this textbook lies in the fact that Dr Kanski managed to involve experts in their specialisms in providing comprehensive sections on eye diseases associated with systemic disorders. To date, eight editions of “Clinical Ophthalmology” have been released; it has been translated into eight languages, and become the best-selling ophthalmology textbook ever.

Dr Kanski participated in national and international conferences in ophthalmology and was frequently invited as a lecturer on various ophthalmological subjects to the world’s leading universities and eye clinics. He visited Ukraine twice as a member of the group of leading British ophthalmologists (including in particular Timothy Fytche and Paul Losen) who delivered lectures on clinical ophthalmology at the Kyiv Eye
This was an excellent opportunity for Ukrainian ophthalmologists not only to meet this extraordinary colleague, but also to attend his instructive lectures and get expert advice on a treatment plan for patients with difficult eye conditions. Jack Kanski was pleased and excited to visit Ukraine since his mother was from Central Ukraine.

He was a kind and empathic person in both his personal life and professional activities, always attached great importance to charity both in the UK and overseas, and presented the Eye Microsurgery Center and eye disease departments of Ukrainian medical universities with clinical ophthalmology textbooks. In addition, Jack, together with Timothy Fytche, co-organized collecting ophthalmological equipment and literature and transporting these to Ukraine. Moreover, he was the first to donate for the Lviv School for Blind Children.

Universities throughout the globe awarded Jack Kanski with honorary degrees in recognition of his service for the cause of ophthalmic education. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and other national and international science associations. In Ukraine, Dr Kanski received the Professor Emeritus Award of Merit from the Lviv National Medical University and was awarded the Pilman Medal of the Association of Pediatric Ophthalmologists.

After Jack retired, he continued his writing activities, but changed his writing focus to history that had been his second favorite subject since his school days. He prepared and published eleven books on world history and great personalities, describing the most important events in world history in his simple style, with selected interesting illustrations.

Jack leaves his wife of more than 42 years, Valerie Ann Shannan.

I have had the great honor and privilege of knowing and working with this extraordinary person over the last eighteen years. Jack’s approach to his job was an example for me; he impressed his colleagues with his awareness in various areas of life, and distinguished himself for his punctuality and self-discipline. He was my teacher, mentor and colleague, and a man with subtle humor and great heart. I will remember Jack Kanski as a tireless and hard-working person who displayed great commitment to the profession and lived his life with honor and dignity.
Recommendations for preparation of manuscripts to be published in Journal of Ophthalmology (Ukraine)

Journal of Ophthalmology (Ukraine) follows the ICMJE's Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals. (ICMJE's for the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors)


Authority
Each person listed as an author is expected to have participated in the study to a significant extent. To qualify as a contributing author, one must meet all of the following criteria (The criteria of authorship are defined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)).:

1. Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work;
2. Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
3. Final approval of the version to be published;
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Contributions by individuals who made direct contributions to the work but do not meet all of the above criteria should be noted in the Acknowledgments section of the manuscript.

The corresponding author is the one individual who takes primary responsibility for communication with the journal during the manuscript submission, peer review, and publication process, and should be available throughout the submission and peer review process to respond to editorial queries in a timely way.

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Conflicts of interest (dual obligations) occur when an author, a reviewer, or an editor has obligations that might influence his opinion. Potential conflicts can include any of following: 1) author’s personal commitment 2) funding 3) obligations (relationship) of editors, magazine staff or reviewers. While submitting the manuscript, authors are responsible for the disclosure of their financial and other conflicts of interest. The conflict of interest is reported in the manuscript on page that follows the title page.

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Protection of Research Participants
Patient consent and anonymity: A patient has the right of privacy which mustn’t be broken without his consent. For all articles that include information, where those patients could be identified in any way (including patient’s photographs, name, initials, and case record numbers on the photos), a signed informed consent to publish must be obtained from each patient.

Human and Animal Rights. When reporting clinical experiments on human subjects, it must be indicated whether they were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation or with the Helsinki Declaration. All authors should seek approval to conduct research from an independent local, regional or national review body (e.g., ethics committee, institutional review board). The authors must submit The Bioethics Committee Approval at the time of manuscript submission.

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Clinical trials. Clinical trials must be registered before the start of patient enrollment in public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registration number must be reported in the paper.

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Types of articles. Journal encourages the submission of article types as follows:

1) original and topical articles (including illustrations, literature review, abstract) volumed up to 10-13 pages A4
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5) short reports – 1.5-2 pages A4

General recommendations
The text must be printed with 1.5 spacing on a standard A4 paper (top, left, bottom margins are 2 cm; right – 1 cm) with no more than 30 rows on a page. Text editor hyphenation is not recommended.

The manuscript can be written in Ukrainian, Russian and English. Electronic version of the article, including the text of the article with supplementary electronic material, must be submitted on-line through the journal’s Web site.

Electronic text must be a Word document with extension .doc, .docs or .rtf. The graphic objects (illustrations or drawings) are not allowed to be imported in the text. They must be sent in separate graphic files (see below). It’s not recommended to use the text editor hyphenation. Tables, diagrams and graphics in Word text editor should be created only in the same text editor.

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Several forms are required of all authors at the time a manuscript is submitted for publication:

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Source(s) of support. These include grants, equipment, drugs, and/or other support that facilitated conduct of the work described in the article or the writing of the article itself.
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b. Abstract
The second page must contain the abstract in Russian, Ukrainian and English and be of not more than 200 words is required. Original research, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses must be structured as: Introduction, Purpose, Methods, Results (explicit data and their statistical significance), and Conclusion. The case reports, literature reviews, innovation proposals, reviews, and short reports may have other formats. For clinical trial abstracts, the clinical trial registration number must be specified at the end of the abstract.

Authors need to ensure that they accurately reflect the content of the article. The abstract should provide the context or background for the study and should state the study’s purpose, basic procedures (selection
of study participants, settings, measurements, analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical and clinical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations, note important limitations, and not overinterpret findings.

i. Key-words. Under the abstract there must be placed 3-8 key-words or short phrases reflecting the main issues in the article and under which you believe the article should be indexed.

The text of the article. The article must be structured as follows: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion.

c. Introduction

Provide a context or background for the study and state the specific purpose or research objective of the study or observation. Cite only directly pertinent references, and do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

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The guiding principle of the Methods section should be clarity about how and why a study was done in a particular way. Methods section should aim to be sufficiently detailed such that others with access to the data would be able to reproduce the results. If an organization was paid or otherwise contracted to help conduct the research (examples include data collection and management), then this should be detailed in the methods.

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Describe your selection of the observational or experimental participants (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly, including eligibility and exclusion criteria and a description of the source population. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate type and quantity of animals, anesthesia and sacrifice methods used in accordance with the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals.

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The results of the research must be presented in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations, giving the main or most important findings first. Do not repeat all the data in the tables or illustrations in the text; emphasize or summarize only the most important observations. When data are summarized in the Results section, give numeric results not only as derivatives (for example, percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated, and specify the statistical methods used to analyze them. Restrict tables and figures to those needed to explain the argument of the paper and to assess supporting data. Use graphs as an alternative to tables with many entries; do not duplicate data in graphs and tables. Avoid nontechnical uses of technical terms in statistics, such as “random” (which implies a randomizing device), “normal,” “significant,” “correlations,” and “sample.”

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For experimental studies, it is useful to begin the discussion by briefly summarizing the main findings, then explore possible mechanisms or explanations for these findings, compare and contrast the results with other relevant studies, state the limitations of the study, and explore the implications of the findings for future research and for clinical practice. Do not repeat in detail data or other information given in other parts of the manuscript, such as in the Introduction or the Results section.

Link the conclusions with the goals of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not adequately supported by the data. In particular, distinguish between clinical and statistical significance, and avoid making statements on economic benefits and costs unless the manuscript includes the appropriate economic data and analyses. State new hypotheses when warranted, but label them clearly.

g. References

The reference list is attached separately. The bibliography must contain mostly the papers of the latest 7-8 years which are directly related to the topic. Only published works should be listed in the reference list. While citing abstracts of theses or monographs their title should be pointed. References should follow the Vancouver format. Citations in the text must be given in square brackets and numbered according to reference list. References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. To minimize citation errors, references should be verified using either an electronic bibliographic source, such as PubMed, or print copies from original sources. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used for MEDLINE (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals).

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The article should be read, proved and signed by all authors with their initials pointed. Journal of Ophthalmology (Ukraine) accept manuscripts through a special form on the journal’s website. The editorials retain the right to make changes in the papers submitted. The articles accept to authors for correcting should be returned to the editorial office no later than a month. If not, the date of its acceptance to the editorial office is changed.

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