

Department Profile

Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University of Białystok, Poland

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Welcome at the Medical University of Białystok in Poland. The main seat of the Medical University of Białystok was (and is still) located in the 18th century Branicki Palace (Figure 1), the most magnificent and precious historic structure located in Białystok.

In 1977, the Faculty of Pharmacy with the Division of Medical Analytics was established, however, there was no initial recruitment until 1987, when the first group of students began their studies at the Faculty of Pharmacy with the Division of Medical Analytics. The first theoretical science departments were housed adjacent to the palace in *Collegium Primum* (Figure 2), and in the second year of existence the University obtained the right to confer scientific degrees.

Approximately 4,000 students from all over Poland and the rest of the world, studying in both Polish and English, are enrolled at our University. Currently, the Medical University of Białystok offers fourteen various degree programs, taught by over 730 members of our highly qualified faculty from the Medical Faculty with the Dentistry Division, Faculty of Pharmacy with the Division of Laboratory Medicine, and Faculty of Health Sciences. Our teaching departments and clinics provide an excellent academic and supportive environment necessary to equip students with a high level of theoretical knowledge and practical training, essential for future physicians, pharmacists and diagnostics. The recent and future addition of modern campus facilities (Figure 3), implementation of new teaching models, and abundant research opportunities also

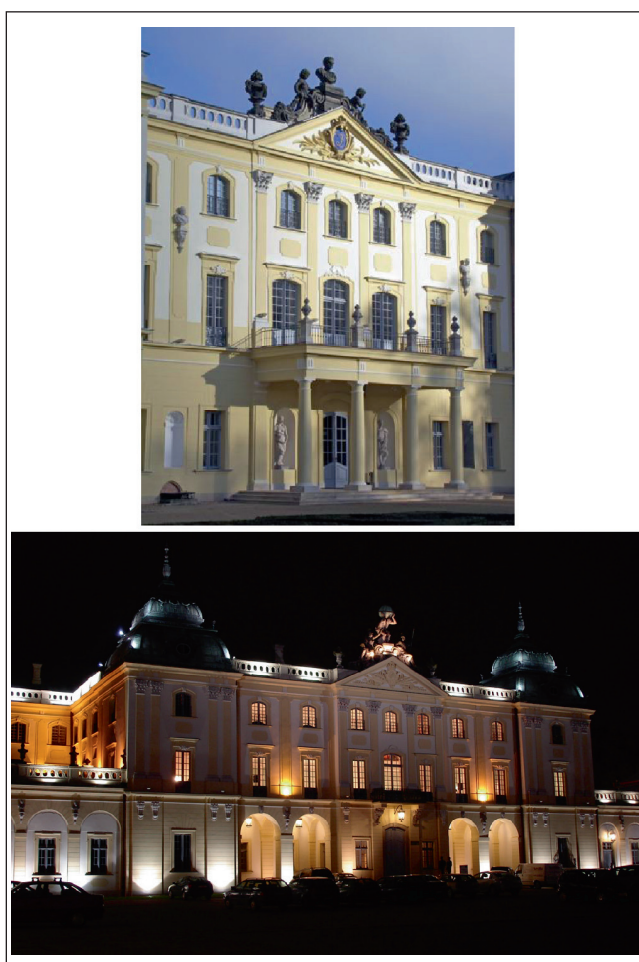


Figure 1: The Branicki Palace, the main seat of the Medical University of Białystok

significantly contribute to the unique educational experience at the University. The newly established and constructed the Euroregional Centre of Pharmacy in Białystok will establish scientific co-operation with other pharmaceutical and medical entities all around Poland and also with those situated in foreign border regions. Moreover, the Centre wants to co-operate with the police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Fire Service and the Border Guard

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Figure 2: Collegium Primum, Faculty of Pharmacy Medical University of Białystok



Figure 3: Euroregional Centre of Pharmacy, Medical University of Białystok (under construction)

Department of Pharmacognosy at the Medical University of Białystok is productive as far as training of graduate students (Pharm. M) and researches are concerned. Our studies focus on the isolation and structure elucidation of polyphenols, essential oils, triterpenes and phytosterols (identification by using spectral methods UV, IR, 1D and 2D - NMR and MS) from different plant matrices. Further, pure isolated compounds or extracts/fractions are tested for their biological activities, on the other hand they are essential for the development of modern analytical methods (HPTLC, HPLC-DAD-MS, GC-MS) in order to assess the quality of raw materials or herbal formulations. Main interests are in the field of different plant extracts and phytoconstituents with antioxidant, anticancer as well as antimicrobial/antifungal activities. Researches include plants used in European traditional medicine, particularly those endemic to (North-Eastern) Poland: *Cirsium* sp., *Erigeron acris* L., *Erigeron annuus* L., *Bidens tripartita* L., *Rubus* sp.,

Cirsium rivulare (Jacq.) All., *Potentilla argentea* L., *Lychnis flos-cuculi* L., *Potentilla* sp..

Selected publications of researchers from the Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University of Białystok:

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5. Tomczykowa M, Gudej J, Majda T, Góra J. Essential oil of *Bidens tripartita* L. *J. Essent. Oil Res.* 2005; 17:632-5.
6. Nazaruk J, Gudej J, Majda T, Góra J. Investigation of the essential oil of *Erigeron acris* L. herb. *J. Essent. Oil Res.* 2006; 18:88-90.
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15. Walesiuk A, Nazaruk J, Braszko J. Pro-cognitive effects of *Cirsium rivulare* extracts in rats, *J. Ethnopharmacol.* 2010; 129:261-6.
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Altogether, the Medical University of Bialystok offers ideal conditions for studying and living. Please browse the website (www.umwb.edu.pl) to discover more details about our programs and faculties and we cordially invite you to enroll at our University and feel free to contact me for more information about the Department of Pharmacognosy.