The 17th JMRC Symposium – „John Robert Vane Memorial” organized by JMRC Foundation was held on the 6th May 2009. The symposium combined the tradition of annual international JMRC symposia carried out in Krakow every year since 1993 with an idea of special conference in memory of Sir John Vane, held at 5th anniversary of his death. Professor John R. Vane, the Nobel Prize laureate (1982), honorary doctor of the Jagiellonian University, foreign member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, distinguished with the Order of Merit for the Republic of Poland, was the inventor of “the Vane’s bioassay cascade”, the discoverer of the mechanism of action of aspirin, the founder of the pharmacology of ACE and the author of numerous other discoveries that changed our understanding of physiology and pharmacology of vascular wall. Our intention was to bring together young scientists to let them know Sir John’s remarkable scientific achievements, and his long-standing and deep links with Poland.

As a continuation of the series of issues of Pharmacological Reports published after JMRC Symposia since 2005 (Pharmacological Reports, 2005, 57, Suppl; 2006, 58, Suppl; 2008, 60, 1; 2009, 61, 1), the present issue of the Pharmacological Reports contains reviews or original articles of the speakers of the 17th JMRC Symposium, related to the topics of their lectures (for the programme of the symposium see www.jmrc.org.pl). The series of articles is preceded by the welcome address of Sir John’s widow Lady Daphne, presented at the opening of the meeting, and by the biography note of Sir John Vane by Ryszard Gryglewski.

We are grateful to all speakers and participants for their contribution to the meeting. We address our special thanks to Professor Ryszard Gryglewski, Sir John’s life-time friend in science, upon whose initiative the “John Robert Vane Memorial” Symposium was organized.

Stefan Chlopicki
Guest Editor
President of the JMRC Foundation Council