



Prof. Adam Sobiczewski, b. 1931 in Skierniewice. He finished the Bolesław Prus Middle School in Siedlce in 1948, followed by the Hetman Stanisław Żółkiewski High School in Siedlce which was science-oriented.

He graduated from the University of Warsaw's Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in 1955, specializing in mathematics, and the following year (1956) graduated from the Warsaw University of Technology's Faculty of Communications (today's Faculty of Electronics), specializing in ultra-short wave technology.

He obtained his doctoral degree in science in 1964 at the University of Warsaw's Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, on the basis of a dissertation related to the theory of the atomic nucleus, prepared under the supervision of Prof. Zdzisław Szymański. He obtained his post-doctoral degree (habilitation) in 1969 at the Institute of Nuclear Research on the basis of a dissertation on the dependence of the energy of a nucleus on its deformation. He received the title of associate professor of physical sciences in 1976 and the title of full professor of physical sciences in 1989.

He spent 1964-1966 on a two-year scientific internship at the Laboratory of Theoretical Physics (the group of Prof. V. G. Soloviev) of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna (Russia), and 1970-1972 on a two-year internship at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen (the group of Prof. Aage Bohr and Prof. Ben Mottelson – Nobel Prize winners in 1975), at the same time working closely with the group of Prof. Sven Gösta Nilsson in Lund (Sweden). In 1979 he began a close collaboration with the group of Prof. Peter Armbruster from the Institute for Heavy Ion Research (GSI) in Darmstadt (Germany), a collaboration that continues to this day. There was also a period when he worked with the Lawrence national laboratories in Berkeley and Livermore (United States).

The main area of Prof. Sobiczewski's work is theoretical research on heavy and super-heavy nuclei, begun in the mid-1960s, i.e. the time when the problem of super-heavy nuclei first emerged. One of the main results of his and his associates' work involved predicting the existence of deformed super-heavy nuclei. These are nuclei located around a doubly magic deformed nucleus with proton number $Z=108$ and neutron number $N=162$. The notion of a doubly magic deformed nucleus itself was introduced by Prof. Sobiczewski and today is widely used in world literature. The experimental results obtained in 1993-1995 by U.S. physicists in Livermore, Russian scientists in Dubna and German scientists in Darmstadt showed unexpectedly good agreement with these predictions. This was noted at many conferences on the synthesis and structure of the heaviest nuclei and in many general and popular scientific periodicals, to mention *Physics Today*, *Science*, *Discovery*, *Nature*, *CERN-Courier*, and even the science sections of daily newspapers like *The New York Times*.

The theoretical prediction of an area of relatively long-living deformed super-heavy nuclei, confirmed experimentally, opened up great possibilities for expanding the table of nuclei and investigating the physical properties of these new super-heavy nuclei which

exist exclusively thanks to shell effects in their structure. It also opened up possibilities for expanding the periodic table of elements and studying the chemical properties of at least some of them. More than a hundred super-heavy nuclei have been synthesized to date, and 15 super-heavy elements.

Prof. Sobiczewski has received a number of awards, including an Individual Prize First Degree from the State Council for Nuclear Energy Utilization (1976), the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) Prize (in the exact sciences, 1995), the G. N. Flerov Prize from the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna (Russia, 1997), the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation Prize (New York, 1997), an honorary doctoral degree from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (2001), the Andrzej Sołtan Medal of the Institute for Nuclear Studies (2001). He is a full member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU), a full member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), an ordinary member of the Warsaw Scientific Society (TNW), and a member of the Polish Physical Society (PTF).

He is currently employed at the National Centre for Nuclear Research as a full professor.

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