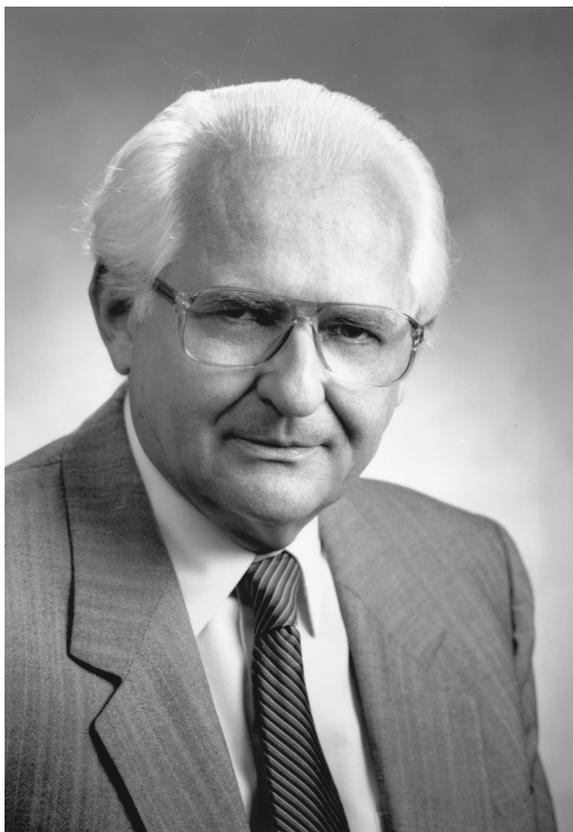


In Memoriam

Zbigniew J. Lipowski, M.D.

1924–1997



Zbigniew J. Lipowski, M.D., died December 30, 1997, at the age of 73. Dr. Lipowski was the 1991 recipient of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine's Hackett Award. "Bish," as he was known to friends, was a mentor to many current leaders in consultation-liaison (C-L) psychiatry. His classic triad *Review of Consultation Psychiatry and Psychosomatic Medicine* is as relevant today as it was three decades ago.¹⁻³ Bish was the consummate historian and political commentator on consultation-liaison psychiatry. In this capacity, he was the "Walter Lippman" of our subspecialty. When the *American Journal of Psychiatry* needed someone to write overviews of consultation psychiatry, Bish was the obvious choice.⁴⁻⁷

Bish's scholarship covered three broad topics. First, he was a gifted historian in C-L psychiatry.^{8,9} He also had an abiding interest in and knowledge about the interface of

C-L psychiatry and neurology, in particular the problem of delirium. His work in this area culminated in *Delirium: Acute Confusional States*, a scholarly tour de force on an important and increasingly recognized topic, but one that had been ignored by mainstream psychiatry for many years.¹⁰ Third, he furthered our knowledge about the problem of somatization. His review article in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* in 1988 focused on this complicated issue, and one of his last publications was as co-author of *Innovative Group Therapeutic Approach to the Somatizing Patient*.^{11,12}

Needless to say, Bish was a remarkable writer. His reviews in major medical journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Journal of The American*

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Medical Association, and *The Canadian Medical Association Journal* helped to make him a significant teacher of nonpsychiatric physicians on important areas in psychiatry.^{13–15} His papers were finally published as a collected work.¹⁶ This remarkable volume of papers is timeless and will offer students important information and concepts for generations.

Although born into the Polish aristocracy, Bish's life was not an easy one. He saw first-hand the horrors of World War II. In Nazi-occupied Poland, between August and October of 1944, Bish participated as a civilian in the Warsaw Uprising, a massive popular revolt against the German army that resulted in the deaths of more than 200,000 people. In an autobiographical essay quoted by the *Toronto Star*, Bish wrote that those "two months of horror were the most significant experience of my life . . . Not far from us were Gestapo headquarters, where some 2,000 men were shot during the uprising and their bodies were burned, so the the odor of burning flesh was with us day and night . . . We were bombed and shelled daily, food was very scarce,

and water had to be obtained at night from a well some distance away . . . I was so hungry as to almost hallucinate food." Eventually Bish escaped Poland with his family and made his way to Ireland. He worked hard and won a medical scholarship at the National University of Ireland in Dublin, where he graduated with honors. He eventually completed his psychiatry residency at McGill and then went on to complete a fellowship in consultation-liaison psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Throughout his career Bish served on many faculties, including McGill, Dartmouth, The Medical College of the University of South Carolina, and the University of Toronto. He was also active in the American Psychosomatic Society and the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine. At annual meetings of these organizations, Bish was always at the center of a large group of colleagues who would eagerly listen to his stories and ideas. Zbigniew J. ("Bish") Lipowski, M.D., will be missed—both as a friend and as an important leader in our field.

Thomas N. Wise, M.D.

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