

Preface

Dear Readers, Dear Polar Researchers and People Connected to the Arctic and the Antarctic,

The Polar Symposium is a recurrent conference, typically occurring every two years, dedicated to Arctic and Antarctic topics, with a long tradition dating back to 1972. Since then, these meetings have been an excellent opportunity for integrating the polar community, exchanging experiences, and a discussion between Polish and international polar researchers representing various scientific disciplines. The Polar Symposium is currently co-organised by the Committee of Polar Research, Polish Academy of Sciences, and the Polish Polar Consortium, and until recently it has also been co-organised by the Polar Club of the Polish Geographical Society. Instead, during the 40th International Polar Symposium, a new Polish Polar Club will debut as an independent association, thus continuing the functioning of the Club since 1974.

The 40th jubilee Symposium on 4–7 November 2025, and the following editions, will take place at an exceptional location: the Museum for Polar Research in Puławy, the first Polish museum of polar research, established in 2020. This location enabled the organisation of various supporting outreach events on polar research, such as public lectures, film screenings, art, and science exhibitions. The possibility to organise Symposia at the Museum results from the efforts of the late Dr. Andrzej Piotrowski, aiming at establishing the Museum, and of Dr. hab. Piotr Zagórski, who supported the Museum and the organisation of Symposia at this set location. We are also grateful to the Director of the Museum, Dr. Piotr Kondraciuk, and the Museum Team, for hosting the Polar Symposium and cooperation on organisational matters.

In 2025, the honour of co-organisation of the 40th International Polar Symposium, entitled “Arctic and Antarctic at the tipping point”, has been given to the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, which has been a member of the Polish Polar Consortium since 2024. This honourable occasion aligns with the 30-year jubilee of geography at the University in Bydgoszcz.

During the plenary session on 5 November, we will have the opportunity to listen to four lectures of the invited speakers. During the entire conference, on 5 and 6 November, five special sessions and further 6 thematic sessions will take place. The conference will encompass 87 contributions by speakers representing 19 research units from Poland and 9 international research units. The Symposium will host a total of 62 oral presentations and 25 posters, with

topics spanning Earth Sciences, biological sciences, chemical sciences, arts and humanities, social science, and including education and outreach.

We hope that the 40th International Polar Symposium will open the floor for animated discussions, exchange of ideas, and forging new scientific connections. We are pleased to present the „Book of abstracts” of the 40th International Polar Symposium to the Readers.

On behalf of the Organisers,
Krystyna Koziol and Danuta Szumińska

& The Scientific Committee of the 40th International Polar Symposium:

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