Dr. Zbigniew Kabata (nicknamed “Bobo” in Poland and referred to as “Bob” in North America) was born on 17 March 1924 into a military family in Jeremicze, Poland and attended Marshal Józef Piłsudski Military Academy in Lwów in 1937 at the young age of 13. He joined the Armia Krajowa in 1941 at the age of 17 and shortly thereafter fought against the Nazis. Bobo and his unit became famous
when they liberated about 250 prisoners from two Gestapo jails. After the Nazis were defeated in Poland and his country came under Soviet Union rule, Bobo found himself labeled as an “enemy of the people” as a result of the years he spent as a guerilla soldier of the Home Army. So, he had no choice but to make a daring escape across Soviet lines to join up with the Free Polish Forces in Italy and command a rifle platoon in the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Carpathian Division.

After the war, Bobo was transferred to Great Britain and from 1946 to 1951 worked as a deckhand on North Sea trawlers, where he became interested in marine life. He attended the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and graduated in 1955 with a First Class Honors Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and was awarded the MacGillivray Prize as the best graduate in Zoology. As an undergraduate, he married Mary Ann Montgomery, an Irish physician, in September 1953. They had a daughter Marta in 1954 and son Andrzej in 1956. In 1959, he was awarded a Ph.D. in parasitology from the University of Aberdeen. After graduation, Dr. Kabata began his first professional post at the Marine Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Aberdeen. He quickly established himself as an expert in the field of fish parasitology, specializing in parasitic Copepoda and pioneering the use of parasites as biological tags for identification and discrimination of commercially important marine fish stocks. It was in Aberdeen that he founded the Parasitology Unit and supervised it until 1967. In 1966, in acknowledging Dr. Kabata’s decade of exceptional contribution to the field of fisheries parasitology, the University of Aberdeen awarded him a D.Sc.

In 1967 Dr. Kabata was recruited as a Research Scientist by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada (now part of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada) to work at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, British Columbia. There he continued to actively pursue research on various aspects of marine fish parasitology, was appointed adjunct professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia in 1980, and retired from public service in 1989. Even after retirement, Dr. Kabata continued his research as evidenced by his impressive 14 publications, including one book, that appeared between 1990 and 2005.

Dr. Kabata’s research interest was chiefly focused on the systematics, phylogeny, and biology of parasitic copepods of fishes worldwide and the diseases caused by them. He was also an accomplished linguist, being fluent in several languages and, during the 1960s, translated several important Russian books into English, including two parasitology textbooks. These translations contributed immensely to the field of parasitology by making the work of Soviet parasitologists available to English-speaking colleagues. Between 1977 and 1989, he was appointed Senior Consultant to the Fish Health projects in South Asia and he made several trips to southeast Asia to study and provide advice on parasitic diseases of