

# Standing on the Shoulders of Giants. Polish Scientists and Scholars in Europe – Legacy and the Present



- The Polish Academy of Sciences Scientific Center in Paris, in collaboration with the PAS foreign centers in Brussels, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and Kyiv invites you to a unique event dedicated to Polish scientists and researchers whose work has shaped, and continues to shape, European science. The meeting will combine a look into the past, highlighting inspiring figures and their ideas, with a conversation about the challenges facing the scientific community today.
- The event will accompany an exhibition prepared to mark Poland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Its aim is to present the profiles of outstanding scientists, showcase their modern successors, and link their achievements to the priorities of the EU's research and development policies, including the Horizon Europe programme.



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# STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS: Jan Czochralski and the Power of Single Crystals



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## STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS: Jan Czochralski and the Power of Single Crystals



The Faculty of Chemistry staff in 1939.  
Czochralski sits in the front row on the far left



**Prof. Czochralski's workplace  
from 1928 to 1944**



1928 -the Chair of Metallurgy and Metal Science was  
formed at the Faculty of Chemistry  
1939 - Head of the Department of Materials Study

Over the years, I have done my efforts to help reclaim Jan Czochralski's rightful place in the history of Polish science and in particular at WUT.

In 2010, when receiving the most prestigious scientific award of the WUT, I expressed my hope that I would live to see the moment when the Czochralski statue would be placed opposite to Maria Skłodowska-Curie.

WUT Senate passed a resolution in 2011 declaring Jan Czochralski a highly ethical man and a great Polish scientist.



The Faculty of Chemistry staff in 1939.  
Prof. J. Czochralski sits in the front row on the far left



**2025**, WUT Main Hall: Sławosz Uznański-Wiśniewski visits WUT

# MY DREAM!



The Faculty of Chemistry staff in 1939.  
Czochralski sits in the front row on the far left



**2030, WUT Main Hall: Jan Czochralski together with Maria Skłodowska-Curie**

# The Czochralski family villa in Warsaw

**Another DREAM!** In 2024, I presented an idea of purchasing this villa by WUT with the goal to allocate for a museum and technology transfer/conference center.



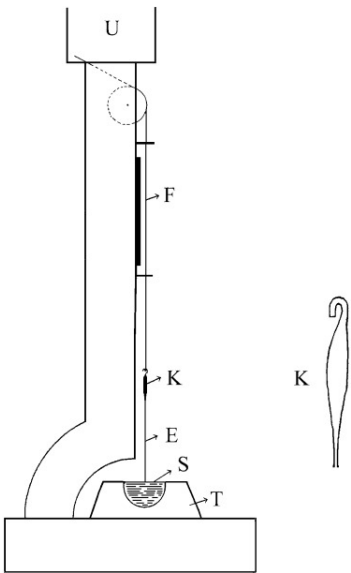
In 1928, the villa was owned by Jan Czochralski, who rebuilt it in the Art Deco style and decorated with unique details.



Since 2013, the villa has served as the residence of the Slovak ambassador and is now for sale for approximately €3.5 million.

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## Czochralski's Creative Mistake: A Milestone on the Way to the Gigabit Era



Czochralski's crystal drawing apparatus of 1916,  
J. Czochralski, Z. Phys. Chem. **1918**, 92, 219

Since single crystals in the Czochralski method are freestanding, they are stress-free  
(!)

The Czochralski method is constantly being developed and has implications for fabricating high-quality and scalable 2D semiconductor materials and devices (*Nat. Mater.* 2025, 24, 188).