PREFACE

The present issue of Annales UMCS, Sectio B is dedicated to Professor Jean Poesen (KU Leuven, Belgium), holder of an honorary doctorate from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University. The first contacts between UMCS staff members and Professor Poesen were established during a scientific conference „Gully Erosion under Global Change", organised in Leuven in 2000 and attended by Dr hab. Jan Rodzik and Dr. hab. Wojciech Zgłobicki. During that meeting, the Professor demonstrated his kindness and openness to collaboration with other researchers. In 2007, the UMCS Institute of Earth Sciences was invited to organise the 5th International Symposium in Lublin thanks to the long-standing involvement of its staff members in gully erosion research. Held in April 2010, the Symposium has improved the international standing of the geomorphological research centre in Lublin and opened up new prospects for the Institute's staff in terms of research and operational possibilities. Since then, the close collaboration between Professor Poesen and the Lublin geographers has led to the preparation of a joint research project dedicated to the evolution of closed depressions in the Lublin Upland, currently implemented with funding from the National Science Centre.

This special issue of Annales UMCS, Sectio B contains papers on a broad range of slope processes that have been studied by Professor Poesen, i.e. gully erosion, soil erosion, evolution of loess relief, modern methods for studying the dynamics of erosion processes and, lastly, closed depressions. Most of the papers concern the Lublin region but there are also studies carried out on Spitsbergen and Siberia. Given that slopes are the world's most common geomorphological forms, the dynamics and determinants of geomorphological processes shaping slopes in the past and in the modern times constitute an important scientific and practical problem. The proper understanding of these processes is essential for the rational use of geographical space for human needs.

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Guest Editor