

OBITUARY

Irina E. Pavlovskaya (1959–2006)

Irina Pavlovskaya, a Consulting Editor of the *Geological Quarterly*, died unexpectedly at Maróz in Poland, on September 6, during the 13th Conference on the *Stratigraphy of the Pleistocene of Poland*.

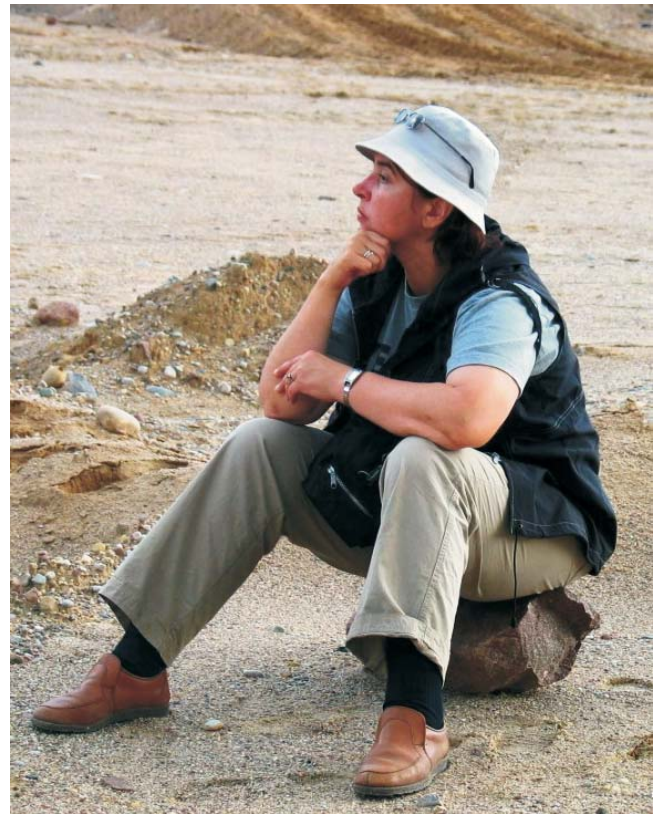
Irina was born in Minsk in Belarus and lived there all her life. She graduated from the Belarusian State University in Minsk in 1981, with an M.Sc. in geography and geomorphology at the Faculty of Geography. At first she was employed at the Belarusian Geological and Hydrogeological Expedition as a specialist in the aerial image interpretation. In 1983 she started Ph.D. studies at the Institute of Geochemistry and Geophysics of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences.

Her daughter Olga was born three years later but already by 1989 Irina had completed her doctoral thesis on the geologic structure, relief and evolution of the Polotsk ice-dammed lake in northern Belarus, supervised by Professor E. A. Levkov, and was awarded a Ph.D. in geological and mineralogical sciences. Then, she started her job at the Institute of Geochemistry and Geophysics (temporarily renamed the Institute of Geological Sciences) of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, lately in the post of leading researcher.

From a very early stage, Irina was eager to widen her field of research, both in subject and region. At the very beginning she studied the ice-dammed deposits and palaeogeography of proglacial lakes in the vicinity of Polotsk in northern Belarus, and in later years, also in the Polish-Belarusian trans-border region. She continued studying the Pleistocene drainage system of Belarus though with correlation to other areas of central and eastern Europe. She initiated new boreholes and the examination of stratotype sections of interglacial deposits in eastern Belarus, close to Mokhilev and Homel. Recently, she was close to obtaining new cores for several interglacial sites in the vicinity of Brest.

In addition to her other achievements, she played a remarkable role in the studies of ice sheet dynamics during the Last Glacial Maximum and in the revision of glacial limits in Belarus and neighbouring areas of Poland and Lithuania. She took part in an international project on cosmogenic isotopes to date LGM limits in central and eastern Europe.

The research enthusiasm of Irina, her profound knowledge, substantial experience and open-minded approach made her an undoubted expert not only in the Quaternary geology



and palaeogeography of Belarus, but also in geological mapping, geomorphological processes (including natural hazards), spatial planning and geoenvironment. She was always eager to cooperate and to encourage others to establish research fields of their own.

Reliability in all her activities resulted in progressively increasing responsibilities. She was nominated a secretary of the research council and a member of the governing editorial board in her home institute. She acted also as Secretary of the Cenozoic Commission of the Belarusian Stratigraphical Committee.

This decade saw Irina intensely and widely involved in scientific and organizational activities, particularly on the international stage. In 2001, she succeeded in submitting the Belarus membership application to the International Union for Quaternary Research and since that time acted as Secretary of the Belarusian National Committee of INQUA. She was a member of the Commission of Glaciation and in 2003–2005, Secretary of the Peribaltic Group of INQUA.

In 1999 Irina became a member of the Editorial Advisory Board and then, since 2003, a Consulting Editor of the *Geological Quarterly*. She has reviewed several dozen of the submitted manuscripts: undoubtedly, her hard work in this field

played a significant role in the promotion of our journal and its approval into the Science Citation Index.

Irina was the leading organiser of two international symposiums of the Peribaltic Group of INQUA in Belarus in 1997 and especially in 2002. She took substantial part in international grants funded by IGCP, INQUA, NATO and the Polish Committee for Scientific Research.

Only a small part of her scientific activity is indicated by over 100 publications, including 3 monographs, 40 papers published in international, peer-reviewed journals (among them *Science*, *Boreas* and *Quaternary International*, but also *Geological Quarterly*) and over 50 abstracts and presentations in conferences organised mainly in Poland and Belarus, but also in Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine and the United States.

Apart from her remarkable research achievements and organisational activities, she was intermittently involved in teaching. She supervised, for instance, two M.Sc. theses prepared in 2000–2003 by students of the Faculty of Geology of Warsaw University at the interglacial sites of Poniemun and Kolodezhny Rov near Grodno in Belarus. In 2002–2003 she taught at the University in Minsk, being employed part-time in the post of associate professor.

Irina visited Poland for the first time in early autumn 1994, to take part in a symposium of the Subcommission of European

Quaternary Stratigraphy of INQUA in Łódź, that focussed on the Cold Warta Stage. Our paths crossed many times since then, especially during the last decade when she came to Poland frequently, several times every year. She stimulated a cross-border geological cooperation with Poland and Lithuania and all the time remained in the forefront as a key member of the Belarusian team.

Apart from the Russian and Belarusian languages, she also spoke English and French fluently. Irina had Polish ancestors and spent many holidays at her cousins' house at Novoyel'nia near Grodno in western Belarus. She profited there from the opportunity to listen to the Polish radio and soon was speaking perfect Polish.

Irina's family occupied the most important place in her life. She adored her daughter Olga and loved her mother Nina. In spite of the every day pressures, she tried to remain optimistic and independent. She was an expert in cookery and wines, and an excellent swimmer.

Irina will remain in our mind forever as a wide-ranging scientist and a field geologist with incredible research enthusiasm, but first of all as a bosom friend. We miss her dearly.

Leszek Marks and Hanna Winter