

Keynote Inclusion

Invited Lecture

Detecting the unseen: living with neurological disorder

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This would be the story of a woman who grew up in a small town in Poland with dreams of becoming a doctor. However, she discovered her passion for chemistry instead, thanks to a supportive mentor who introduced her to the world of crystallography. Despite facing challenges and struggling with a rare neurological disorder causing chronic pain, she persisted in her studies, earning her Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. Now, as a postdoctoral researcher, she continues to pursue her passion.

As a member of the board of a foundation working for patients with chronic diseases, she advocates for greater awareness and support for people with disabilities or chronic diseases. She aims to inspire others facing similar challenges. Now she would like to highlight the importance of inclusion within the scientific community.

That woman is me, Helena.

During this talk, I would like to tell you a little about my ordinary life and incurable disorder I am facing. Despite appearing cheerful and enthusiastic every day, the pain and suffering I conceal under my lab coat are not readily apparent. I just want to highlight something important: among us scientists, there are individuals with disabilities, even though it might not always be obvious.



Figure 1. Cover related to the editorial [1]. This cover is part of ACS's Diversity & Inclusion Cover Art Series.

[1] Butkiewicz, H. (2022). *Cryst. Growth Des.*, 22.