

A promising New Year 2012 for the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*

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A happy New Year 2012 to all our readers, authors, referees, members of the Team, our publisher, Medycyna Praktyczna, and all internal medicine specialists. The year 2011 has brought several major changes to the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*, a journal founded in 1923 and supported from the very beginning by the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. This open-access journal covers a wide range of internal medicine topics from clinical epidemiology to basic science when related to clinical issues. Our continued mission is to provide clinical research articles for academically oriented general internal medicine physicians.

On November 17, 2011, the first meeting of friends and supporters of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* was held in Kraków (FIGURES 1–4). This initiative was supported by “Index Plus”, a program aimed at improving the quality of Polish scientific journals, sponsored by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. We were honored to see many of our authors and readers, including the late Professor Andrzej Szczeklik (the head of the Polish Scientific Board), and Professors: Roman Jaeschke (the head of the International Scientific Board), Franciszek Kokot, Eugeniusz Kucharz, Jacek Musiał, Marek Naruszewicz, Zofia Bilińska, Jolanta Małyżko, Krystyna Zawilska, Janusz Siebert, and many other distinguished guests. We wish to express our gratitude to Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education, Professor Maciej Banach, MD, FESC, FASA, FSGC, who was actively involved in the financial support of our ongoing strive to improve the journal.

The meeting focused on recent achievements and provided a forum for the discussion of issues pertaining to the current and future publication strategy of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*. One of the major changes in 2011 was the introduction of online-first papers to speed the publication process. We also launched a new section, Letters to the Editor, to give our readers

a possibility to comment on the results reported in our journal and to discuss the challenges for internal medicine. We also introduced citation alerts, and each month we send e-mails to all authors who have been cited in papers published in our journal. Having switched to electronic submission via Editorial Manager, we have now experienced 2 full years with this system, which currently operates very smoothly.

In recent years, the position of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* has become widely recognized, which is reflected by the fact that our first impact factor will be announced by the Institute of Scientific Information in June 2012. Its value is likely to exceed 1.0. The original articles by Buyukhatipoglu et al.,¹ Opolski et al.,² Kaczmarek et al.,³ Szuldrzyński et al.,⁴ and Bednarek-Skublewska et al.,⁵ published in 2010 in our journal, were most cited in 2011, thus contributing to impact factor 2012. Progress in science and medicine is facilitated by such original papers; therefore, I would like to acknowledge their authors for such important contribution. Moreover, a number of the world's leading scientists submitted excellent reviews to our journal,^{6–8} and these papers were also highly cited in 2011.

During the meeting, appreciation and recognition were expressed to all reviewers for their substantial support. Due to their efforts, we could accept quality papers for publication, which enhanced the reputation of our journal. I greatly appreciate major contribution of all hard-working reviewers who were able to provide their critical comments within 14 days. Our top 5 reviewers in 2011 were doctors: Bartłomiej Guzik, MD, Tomasz Klupa, MD, Katarzyna Cyganek, MD, Tomasz Stompór, MD, and Małgorzata Bała, MD. The award certificates were handed to our top referees during the meeting.

I am also delighted to welcome Professors Albert Wu and Jadwiga Wedzicha as members of our International Scientific Board. Professor Wu's scientific research focuses on patient outcome and quality of care. He was among the first to measure

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FIGURE 1 Meeting of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*; editors, members of the Scientific Board, reviewers, authors, and friends; Kraków, November 17, 2011



FIGURE 2 From the left: Professor Maciej Banach, Professor Roman Jaeschke, late Professor Andrzej Szczeklik, Professor Jacek Musiał



quality of life outcomes in patients with HIV. Professor Wedzicha is a most distinguished clinical scientist who has made outstanding contributions to our knowledge of lung diseases. Both new Editors have published over 200 articles in renowned international journals. We are honored to have such eminent scientists on the board.

A few changes are planned in 2012. A new website of our journal will be launched on January 31, 2012. It will be more user-friendly, incorporate several new features, and facilitate the editorial process. Online-first papers will be continued in 2012, given a highly positive feedback from our readers. We have been striving hard to ensure quality papers from the entire world and to handle manuscripts in a timely manner. In the current year, we want to reduce our time

from submission to the first editorial decision to 25 days. One of our aims for 2012 is to create a group of multidisciplinary Section Editors to manage a rising number of submissions and increased peer review load. Similarly to numerous other top journals, the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* considers the introduction of Theme Issues, and volunteers to act as Guest Editors will be welcome. This year, a new competition for medical students has been introduced to encourage young scientists to submit their best work prepared under the supervision of top researchers. The submission deadline is March 31, 2012 and the best papers will be published in the June-August issue of our journal.

It is likely that all the above changes will have a major impact on the position of our journal in

FIGURE 3 Professor Anetta Undas and Professor Jacek Musiał officially welcome Professor Józef Drzewoski to the Scientific Board



FIGURE 4 Our honored guest – Professor Franciszek Kokot



the years to come. With growing support of all internists in Poland and abroad, I am confident of the continued success and further development of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* in the year 2012. I wish all readers a happy, successful New Year 2012 with interesting research projects and plenty of publications!

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