

# A new impact factor: what we are proud of and where we are heading

Anetta Undas

Editor-in-Chief, *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*

The journal's impact factor published in 2015 by Thomson Reuters is a measure of the number of times an "average article" from the year 2012 or 2013 was cited in 2014. We are happy to announce that the impact factor (IF) of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* increased to 2.121 in 2014 (FIGURE 1). This index provides quantitative evidence for the position of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* in relation to other journals, especially those in the same category, and also in comparison to several Polish biomedical journals (TABLE 1). I strongly believe that our journal is likely to achieve an IF of about 2.5 in the near future.

We feel that this is a good sign that although we still have a Polish title and most our papers are submitted by Polish authors, international scientific and clinical communities appear to increasingly value our content.

We sincerely thank all our authors, reviewers, members of the scientific boards, and readers who helped us achieve this year's IF. We have come a long way in a short span of time thanks to your continued support.

The journal's acceptance rate in 2014 was 24%. In the first 6 months of 2015, the journal's website has had an average of 5000 visitors a month, which is a similar value to that obtained from January to June 2014. Editorial processing times remain competitive. The average processing time in 2015 is 20 days from submission to the first decision and 39 days since submission to the final decision to accept or reject an article. The average time for an individual article to appear online is 4.1 days since acceptance. In the era of globalization, the sooner the better in terms of sharing research data with other investigators and readers. Therefore, we are extremely proud of these numbers.

The best papers authored by Poles are always submitted first to journals based in the United States and Western European countries. I believe that it is up to the Polish Society of Internal Medicine and our editorial team to make the journal

better and more attractive to Polish authors, particularly, young investigators. The journal supports research done by medical students by awarding the best student paper prize. In the current issue, 3 articles have been prepared by researchers at the very beginning of their scientific career.<sup>1-3</sup> Proportionally to the IF, the number of submitted manuscripts has increased in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* like in other journals. I believe that the quality of our journal will improve at a similar speed.

I will now provide a short overview of the most cited papers published in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*, which largely contributed to the current IF (TABLE 2).<sup>4-15</sup> Moreover, based on an online search (Web of Science), I selected papers published in 2014 felt to be worth appreciating based on the number of citations they received until June 30, 2015 (TABLE 3).<sup>16-19</sup> Review articles are generally cited more frequently than typical research articles. However, not in all journals. For example, in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*, 38% of the citations from 2014 came from reviews, while the largest share of 62% represented citations of original studies, which highlights the scientific value of the articles accepted for publication in the years 2012–2013. Moreover, the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* does not publish clinical practice guidelines supported by scientific societies or consensus documents such as position papers. On the other hand, 24% of the papers from 2012 and 2013 included in the denominator of the 2014 IF were not cited even once in 2014. This proportion, article types, and authors will be analyzed to draw conclusions that may provide us with much needed guidance while evaluating the increasing number of new submissions. In light of the above data, the present IF is impressive.

In 2014, some new initiatives were started in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*, including the introduction of the Controversies in Medicine section. A paper by Peter Gøtzsche<sup>20</sup> published in the November 2014 issue has attracted particular

Correspondence to:

Prof. Anetta Undas, MD, PhD, Instytut Kardiologii, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Collegium Medicum, ul. Prądnicka 80, 31-202 Kraków, Poland, phone: +48 12 614 30 04, fax: +48 12 423 39 00, e-mail: mmundas@cyf-kr.edu.pl

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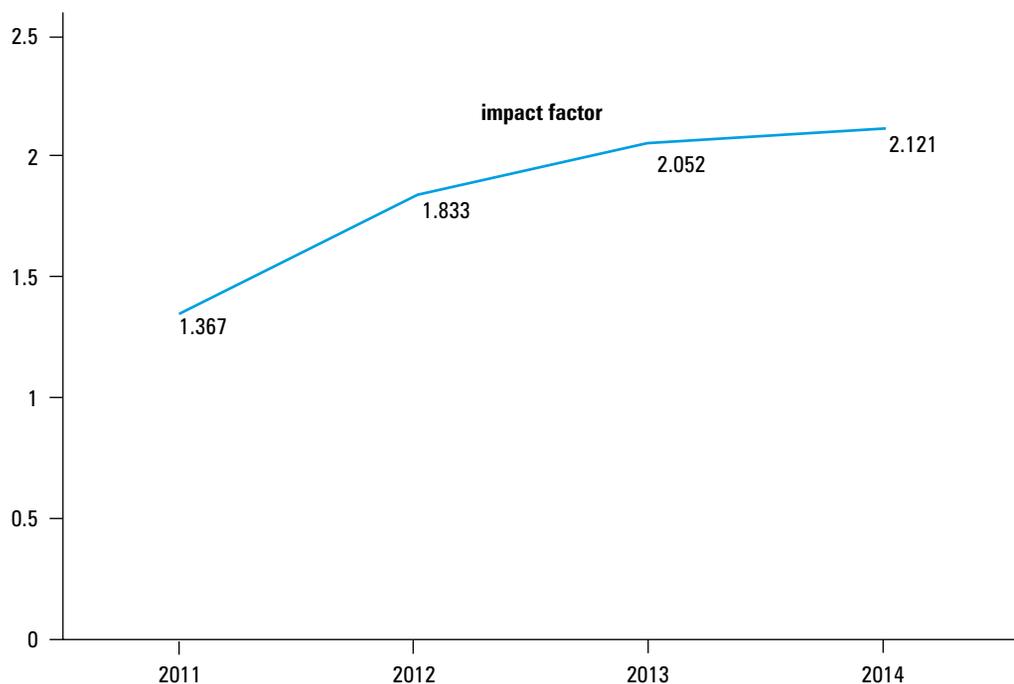
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**FIGURE 1** Impact factor of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* in the years 2011–2014



**TABLE 1** Polish medical journals—changes in impact factor in 2013 and 2014

Abbreviated journal title	2014	2013
ARCH IMMUNOL THER EX	↑ 3.176	2.818
J PHYSIOL PHARMACOL	↓ 2.386	2.720
<b>POL ARCH MED WEWN</b>	<b>↑ 2.121</b>	<b>2.052</b>
ARCH MED SCI	↑ 2.030	1.890
PHARMACOL REP	↓ 1.928	2.165
FOLIA NEUROPATHOL	↓ 1.568	1.667
HERED CANCER CLIN PR	↓ 1.472	2.103
TRANSL NEUROSCI	↑ 1.319	0.716
J CONTEMP BRACHYTHER	↑ 1.284	–
ANN TRANSPL	↓ 1.261	1.430
POL J PATHOL	↑ 1.128	0.832
ADV MED SCI-POLAND	↑ 1.105	0.964
ADV CLIN EXP MED	↑ 1.095	0.333
CARDIOL J	↓ 1.062	1.215
ENDOKRYNOL POL	↓ 0.993	1.208
POSTEP DERM ALERGOL	↑ 0.845	–
PSYCHIATR POL	↓ 0.733	0.753
NEUROL NEUROCHIR POL	↑ 0.641	0.537
GINEKOL POL	↓ 0.601	0.675
POSTEP HIG MED DOSW	↓ 0.573	0.633
KARDIOL POL	↑ 0.539	0.519
CENT EUR J IMMUNOL	↓ 0.280	0.358
CENT EUR J MED	↓ 0.153	0.209
POSTEP KARDIOL INTER	↑ 0.148	0.066
PRZ GASTROENTEROL	↓ –	0.375
VIDEOSURGERY MINIINV	↓ –	1.092
WSPOLCZESNA ONKOL	↓ –	0.215

interest, especially among the Polish readership. Please also pay attention to our upcoming special issue on Cochrane Collaboration

and methodological challenges in clinical studies, which will be published in Polish in November 2015. Another special issue, scheduled to be

**TABLE 2** Most cited articles published in 2012 and 2013

No.	Article (2012–2013)	Title	Citations in 2014
1	Lipinski and Pretorius <sup>4</sup>	Novel pathway of iron-induced blood coagulation: implications for diabetes mellitus and its complications	14
2	Sarr <sup>5</sup>	2012 revision of the Atlanta classification of acute pancreatitis	8
3	Okrasa-Bylica et al. <sup>6</sup>	Altered fibrin clot properties in patients with premature peripheral artery disease	8
4	Ulasli et al. <sup>7</sup>	Mean platelet volume as an inflammatory marker in acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	7
5	Kwaśny-Krochin et al. <sup>8</sup>	Plasma asymmetric dimethylarginine in active rheumatoid arthritis: links with oxidative stress and inflammation	7
6	Wilk et al. <sup>9</sup>	Endothelial function assessment in atherosclerosis: comparison of brachial artery flow-mediated vasodilation and peripheral arterial tonometry	7
7	Urbankowski et al. <sup>10</sup>	Th1/Th2/Th17-related cytokines in the bronchoalveolar lavage fluid of patients with sarcoidosis: association with smoking	7
8	Kleinegris et al. <sup>11</sup>	Coagulation and the vessel wall in thrombosis and atherosclerosis	6
9	Adamczyk et al. <sup>12</sup>	Biomarkers of calcification and atherosclerosis in patients with degenerative aortic stenosis in relation to concomitant coronary artery disease	6
10	Janda et al. <sup>13</sup>	Osteoprotegerin as a marker of cardiovascular risk in patients on peritoneal dialysis	6
11	Opolski et al. <sup>14</sup>	Cardiovascular therapy, diagnostic procedures, and control of risk factors in patients with diabetes or coronary artery disease in Poland: the Kardia-Pol registry	6
12	Stróżecki et al. <sup>15</sup>	Advanced glycation end products and arterial stiffness in patients with diabetic nephropathy and patients with chronic kidney disease without diabetes	6

**TABLE 3** Most cited papers published in 2014

No.	Article	Title	Total citations
1	Ratajczak et al. <sup>16</sup>	New advances in stem cell research: practical implications for regenerative medicine	7
2	Cieslik-Guerra et al. <sup>17</sup>	Correlation between the activity of the autonomic nervous system and endothelial function in patients with acute coronary syndrome	5
3	Undas et al. <sup>18</sup>	Practical aspects of new oral anticoagulant use in atrial fibrillation	5
4	Nicolini et al. <sup>19</sup>	Noninvasive ventilation for hypercapnic exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: factors related to noninvasive ventilation failure	4

**TABLE 4** Most active reviewers in 2014

No.	Reviewer name
1	Jarosław Zalewski
2	Ewa Wender-Ożegowska
3	Aleksander Prejbisz
4	Daniel Potaczek
5	Rafał Poliwczyk
6	Tomasz Pasierski
7	Katarzyna Mizia-Stec
8	Grzegorz Kopeć
9	Marian Klinger
10	Michał Holecki
11	Jerzy Chudek

published at the beginning of 2016, will present the fundamentals of biostatistics for young investigators. Without the first-rate methodology and statistical analysis, no good papers will be published in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* like in other journals.

We also acknowledge the immense work of our reviewers. The most hard-working reviewers in 2014 are listed in [TABLE 4](#).

A major change regarding publication fees was approved by the authorities of the Polish Society

of Internal Medicine in May 2015. The page fees for accepted manuscripts will be charged starting from September 1, 2015. The fees will be as follows: 2000 PLN (500 Euro) for original and unsolicited review papers, 1500 PLN (300 Euro) for research letters, and 1000 PLN (250 Euro) for clinical images, with no fee for letters to the editor or invited review articles (see our current Instructions for authors). There are no fees for access to published papers (open access) or color fees. Despite support from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the publisher, Medycyna Praktyczna, had to cover a substantial proportion of the journal's costs. Now we hope that several new initiatives aimed at improving the quality of and promoting our journal will be launched in 2016.

Running the journal would never have been possible without the help of the vice editor-in-chief, Dr. Grzegorz Gajos. Special thanks go to the managing editor, Małgorzata Wiesner.

Looking towards the future, it is hoped that publication in the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* will soon be in itself an honor and recognition of a paper's value, especially for Polish researchers. I sincerely hope that we will all enjoy reading interesting, diverse studies published in the subsequent issues of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*. To achieve this,

we cordially invite you to submit your manuscripts to our journal, which guarantees a rapid peer review and quick publication after acceptance.

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