

# *Pol Arch Med Wewn* becomes *Pol Arch Intern Med*

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For more than 90 years, *Polskie Archiwum Medycyny Wewnętrznej* (*Pol Arch Med Wewn*) has been published to develop interdisciplinary research on a broad spectrum of specialties and topics related to internal medicine. The *Pol Arch Med Wewn* is the official journal of the Society of Internal Medicine (Towarzystwo Internistów Polskich) founded in 1906 with a large contribution of scientists from Kraków, Poland (see historical commentaries on pp. 963-966 and pp. 967-979). Within the last 5 years, this long-standing journal has become one of the best Polish journals reporting clinical research on internal medicine, as evidenced by the 2015 impact factor of 2.054. The robust position of the *Pol Arch Med Wewn* is a big success of authors, research community, and the hard-working editorial team.

In May 2016, the Society and several opinion leaders opted for the change of title, and now the English version of the title—the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (*Pol Arch Intern Med*)—will be the official name of our journal to reflect its truly international scope (effective January 1, 2017). It does not mean that the journal will lose its identity, widen its scope, take a new direction, alter publication format, or change the quality of the papers. It will still be a Polish journal representing the forum for Polish clinicians and scientists mainly, who explore a wide array of research fields in internal medicine, including the current challenges of everyday practice (see the Questions and Answers section), or express concerns about the position of internal medicine in Poland and other countries around the world (see the Forum for internal medicine section).

We are aware of the fact that the change of a journal title can sometimes cause significant problems. The key issue is the potential effect of this change on the impact factor as the most important measure of journal quality. In the past, most publishers and editors stated that the change would negatively affect the impact factor for a longer period of time than originally thought (10 years ago estimated at at least about 3 years), largely due to erroneous citations and references. For this reason, it has been claimed that only

necessary changes in a journal title, such as following a merger with another journal, should be implemented. I hope that our subtle change to the title will not have any serious implications and that the impact factor of the *Pol Arch Intern Med* will not be lower than that calculated by Thomson Reuters for the *Pol Arch Med Wewn*. A thorough analysis of citations is ahead of us. Nevertheless, I hope that “a rose by any other name would smell as sweet”, as William Shakespeare wrote in *Romeo and Juliet*.

We will do our best to further improve the quality of the journal, now entitled the *Pol Arch Intern Med*. The number of submissions is currently about 30 papers per month with a rejection rate of over 70%. I hope that we will maintain this upward trend, improving the quality of the papers written by investigators from many countries, which will lead to an increased citation rate. Our ultimate goal is to increase the visibility of Polish internal medicine and science in Europe and beyond, which should be more efficient with the English version of the journal title. Are we right? Time will tell.

I wish merry Christmas to all our readers, authors, and reviewers—may this New Year 2017 be abundant in scientific achievements, fascinating findings, and several must-read articles also in the *Pol Arch Intern Med*.

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