

Scientific life is changing: virtual and real-world experience

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It had been arranged that we would meet each other at the XXIX Meeting of the Polish Society of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine in September 2021. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has caused this Meeting to be cancelled. However, more than 70 years of tradition, and the prestigious status of the Society, requires that we demonstrate the progress that has been made in hematology and blood transfusion. The virtual XXIX Meeting will present highlights of 2021. We plan to meet, hopefully face-to-face, next year.

The pandemic has already changed our scientific lives. Unusually in a world where activity in most areas has been severely curtailed, scientists have been pushed to much higher levels of activity, much of it via virtual meetings. Our scientific life has expanded to encompass teleconferences and webinars. Some of these practices will undoubtedly remain. Most one-day events, scientific, organizational and work-related, are being replaced by virtual meetings. Educational courses are also being moved to the web. But we all miss our participation in large conferences with personal meetings, both at the national and international levels.

Scientific activity during the pandemic can be easily measured by an increase in manuscript publications and more submissions and presentations of abstracts at leading conferences. Recently, there have been released impact factor values that have shown increasing values for most hematological journals. Obviously, “Acta Haematologica Polonica” cannot compete with these journals. But papers published in “Acta Haematologica Polonica” can be cited everywhere, and must be cited, if we want to maintain our status within the scientific community. This is the continuous task for all of us [1–4]!

To help achieve this goal, this ‘meeting’ issue of “Acta Haematologica Polonica” contains a number of leading papers on topics including hematopoietic cell transplantation, myeloproliferative and lymphoproliferative disorders, as well as on non-malignant hematology, hemostasis, and blood transfusion. The Autoimmune Disease Working Party of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) presents a report on their activity, calling for cooperation with Polish centers [5]. The Hemostasis Group presents their interdisciplinary impact and cooperation with cardiology, gynecology and obstetrics [6–8]. We see how targeted therapy including immunotherapy is becoming standard practice nowadays [9, 10]. Hematology is indeed becoming an interdisciplinary value in the early 2020s: e.g. hemato-cardiology, hemato-nephrology, and hemato-immunology.

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JS – sole author.

Conflict of interest

None.

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Ethics

The work described in this article has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans; EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments; Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals.

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