To follow the right path...

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In modern times, practicing the medical profession is inextricably linked with continuous exposure to a vast amount of information. We are literally inundated with information from all possible sides, mainly via the internet. On the one hand, this facilitates our everyday work, provides us quickly with the results of studies or recommendations from the remote places all over the world. On the other hand, we have to filter the information and to select those most relevant, trusting that the authors of publications are reliable. The widespread use of English and access to the internet are the arguments put forward by those who doubt that national or local medical journals are necessary and useful. Over one thousand readers of “Anaesthesiology Intensive Therapy” per quarter of a year, however, evidences its good condition, which is also confirmed in the factual scoring system of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (score 9) [1]. “Anaesthesiology Intensive Therapy” is the most highly appraised periodical in our speciality.

When the former Editor-in-Chief, Professor Andrzej Nestorowicz assumed this post, he was convinced that the quarterly was our common achievement and wanted that to remain unchanged [2]. In the article opening the present issue, Professor Nestorowicz shared his reflections and showed the directions of further development of the journal [3]. His pure modesty has undoubtedly hindered the presentation of all fruits of his accomplishments. The quarterly maintains its high position amongst the medical journals in Poland, is included in many bibliographic databases, e.g. Medline PubMed, and is available on the internet in its Polish and English version, which makes it accessible for almost everyone worldwide. Nevertheless, the journal and its editorial board are faced with new challenges, the essential of which is to gain more recognition by inclusion in the Philadelphia List and to receive the impact factor.

The Editor-in-Chief cannot accomplish such tasks alone; together with the editorial and scientific board as well as the publisher, he is only capable of preparing the suitable conditions to fulfil the goals. All the rest lies with the authors publishing their study results and citing the journal. However, such goals may not be easy to achieve; despite the unshakeable position of “Anaesthesiology Intensive Therapy”, some competitive titles appeared on the market. Since the market is not too vast and the list of those eager to submit their manuscripts is far from being abundant, the ambitions to join the circle of recognisable international journals might be difficult to satisfy.

The scientific character of the quarterly results from the fact that it publishes the original and clinical papers. The majority of them are the studies carried out in Polish centres, although recently the number of articles from other countries has been increasingly high, which is visible in the two previous issues [4, 5, 6]. This internationalisation of the journal should also involve the publication of the review articles written by international authorities on anaesthesiology, intensive therapy and perioperative medicine. The Index Plus grant, received by the Board of the Polish Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy, “for modernisation and internationalisation of the official journal of PTAiT in off-line and on-line versions” might be helpful. The grant is a great success of the Main Board, Prof. Nestorowicz and dr Anna Łuczyńska, the medical publications manager of the previous publisher collaborating on the quarterly.

The change of the Editor-in-Chief has taken place simultaneously with the changes of the publisher and the assistant editor. The changes have already been visible in the previous issue of AIT with a slightly changed graphic design and a new website http://czasopisma.viamedica.pl/ait/, which should soon enable the authors to send their manuscripts by electronic mail.

Further development of “Anaesthesiology Intensive Therapy” will be the product of cooperation of authors, editorial board, scientific editors and the publisher. We should trust that common actions would translate into improvements of the journal, both its paper and electronic versions, resulting in its wider international presence. Most importantly, the quarterly is to serve its readers and to build up our common achievements, the functions it has been fulfilling for 44 years.
References:


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