

# Folia Cardiologica

## — cardiology journal without borders

Wojciech Zaręba

Cardiology Division, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY, USA

Over the last few years an advent of internet publishing, supported by the widespread use of English as the scientific language of the world, has created a unique opportunity for physicians all over the world to update their knowledge, and to learn about new concepts or developments regarding disease origin, diagnosis, and treatment. For example, the International Society for Holter and Non-invasive Electrocardiology, a nonprofit organization promoting advances in education and science of electrocardiology as well as cardiology in general, recently organized a virtual symposium on heart failure which was attended online by approximately 11,000 physicians from over 90 countries. This big event serves as clear evidence that education in cardiology is able to function without borders and even without the need to travel as the internet, together with publishing houses, can bring articles, lectures, and slide presentations to a physician's homes or offices.

Medical journals are a critical means of gaining access to the most up-to-date information and new developments in clinical medicine or basic science. Publishing in journals serves peer physicians, but also serves as a vehicle to promote the authors' academic careers. English has become the universal language of science and the promotion of new ideas and new scientific findings cannot be accomplished successfully without publishing in an English-speaking journal. These journals provide immense leverage of published work contributing to breakthroughs in medicine. To give an example, the concept of thrombolysis with streptokinase in

acute myocardial infarction was originated by Russian colleagues over two decades ago; however thrombolysis was not discovered and popularized in the rest of the world until this work was presented and published in English. We need to shorten the process of discovery by publishing in English, which opens the science to everyone.

It is our pleasure to present to you the first issue of Folia Cardiologica in English. Folia Cardiologica was established as a cardiology journal for Polish cardiologists and the medical community over 12 years ago. During these past several years, Folia Cardiologica has become an important scientific and educational venue for Polish cardiologists. Currently, with over 1200 individual subscribers, the devoted editorial board of Folia Cardiologica is ready to undertake a new step to become an all-English cardiology journal of international stature open to scientific contributions and educational content from all over the world. We believe that the prior successful record of Folia will provide a solid foundation for international recognition of the journal.

The journal is currently undergoing a major makeover! The cover is enriched by the addition of interesting figures from the issue, and the content will include review articles, original articles, editorials, how-to-do articles, case reports, images in cardiology, as well as historical articles.

Review papers aim to bring a state-of-the-art update on the topics of relevance for the clinical practice of cardiology or pertinent research. Original submissions are the backbones of the journal bringing new experience to be shared and to stimulate further improvement in all aspects of medicine, while the accompanying editorials will put them in perspective. We have also started a section called "How to do" which will provide our readers with guidance and information regarding a specific disease entity, procedure, or management to streamline the learning process. We will continue publishing rare and interesting case reports and images in

---

Address for correspondence: Wojciech Zaręba, MD, PhD  
Cardiology Division, University of Rochester  
Medical Center  
601 Elmwood Ave, Box 653, Rochester, NY 14642, USA  
e-mail: wojciech\_zareba@urmc.rochester.edu

medicine that are always instructional and make us realize that medicine is sometimes a puzzle. Finally, we added a section called "Pearls and giants in cardiology", where Dr. Shlomo Stern from Jerusalem, will present information about special people and historical developments in cardiology, which nowadays are frequently taken for granted.

In this first English issue of the journal, we cover a wide spectrum of cardiology topics starting with two elegant review papers. Drs. Libionka and Nessler bring us a comprehensive review updating our readers with new aspects of pharmacotherapy in acute heart failure. Heart failure is an epidemic of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and particular emphasis should be put on advancing knowledge and science in this field. Another review was prepared by Drs. Wasilewski and Polonski, which focuses on the mechanisms of atherosclerosis, in particular on the role of the DC40/CD40 ligand system in the inflammatory response triggering the atherosclerotic process — an important target for pharmacology of the future.

Original articles describe a wide spectrum of interesting investigations including Dr. Szulc's randomized study evaluating the effect of rate versus rhythm control on left ventricular function in patients with persistent atrial fibrillation. This article is accompanied by very useful and stimulating editorial written by Drs. Vorobiof and Rocco. An additional brief editorial was contributed by Dr. Gradus-Pizlo regarding interesting work by Dr. Wita and colleagues on the usefulness of myocardial contrast echocardiography in assessing myocardial

changes in acute myocardial infarction. Other original articles also touch on the following topics: QTc duration and QT dispersion in neonates, diastolic dysfunction in impaired glucose tolerance, seismography for assessing left ventricular function, epicardial steroid-eluting pacing in children, effects of simvastatin on PDFG, as well as an unusual case of fungal endocarditis in a patient with a pacemaker.

The "How to do" article in this issue by Dr. Lewczuk focuses on chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension — an important yet underappreciated disease process.

Dr. Stern contributed a nice historical article on Dr. Andreas Gruntzig, the pioneer of coronary angioplasty. Dr. Barold was kind enough to write a special note on Dr. Seymour Furman, one of the giants in cardiology who recently passed away.

We are delighted to bring this rich and comprehensive issue of *Folia Cardiologica* to our readers and simultaneously to provide web-based access to this journal content for thousands of physicians worldwide. We would like to invite authors from all over the world to submit to *Folia Cardiologica* their original scientific articles, comprehensive reviews, interesting case reports, as well as other papers which could trigger interest and are worth sharing with the medical community. Cardiology without borders is now reality and *Folia Cardiologica* is proud to join this world-wide process of advancing the education, knowledge, and science of cardiology.