

The Voice of the Board

Dear Colleagues,

One of the primary and very important goals of statutory activity of the Polish Diabetes Association (PDA) is "to spread the information about the achievements of modern science among physicians and other members of diabetes care teams" as well as "to encourage and introduce PDA members to scientific research". For many years, the Polish Diabetes Association has been proud to provide funds for the implementation of research projects. In recent few years, **PDA Research Grant Competition** has been announced annually. We are very pleased that more and more young researchers are applying for funding for the implementation of scientific research in the area of diabetology. In 2016, there were 23 applications, and 5 projects received funding totalling approximately PLN 400,000. We would like to express our congratulations to the beneficiaries and again we encourage all young researchers to submit their applications in the next year's edition of the competition. The intention of the Main Board of the Polish Diabetes Association is also to disseminate widely the results from the research projects. We recommend the publication of the results in international journals, as well in our journal, "Clinical Diabetology", that we hope will soon be indexed in the Medline database. Also, it should be noted that this year we have witnessed a very big success of Professor Wojciech Fendler

who published the results of the study supported by the PDA grant in the "Diabetologia" journal. We also try to facilitate the process of preparation, submission and management of research projects by, among other things, placing on the website of the Polish Diabetes Association a user-friendly site that contains frequently asked questions and answers.

Another important area of supporting scientific activities is financing the participation of young medical researchers in international Congresses. This year, five young doctors have benefited from this form of support. For several years, the Award Committee have been preparing documents that enabled a large group of diabetologists to go to the Congress of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in the framework of scholarships funded by Eli Lilly. In 2016, 24 diabetologists had the opportunity to attend the 52nd EASD Congress. On the other hand, a completely new activity of the Polish Diabetes Association is supporting clinical training visits to foreign European diabetes centres in order to improve clinical skills and to establish scientific cooperation with leading diabetes centres in Europe.

We highly encourage you to submit your research projects and to make use of the possibility to receive a research grant. We try to support all those activities that promote the development of Polish diabetology.

On behalf of the PDA Award Committee
Prof. Irina Kowalska

