

# Editorial announcement of the International Maritime Health

Dear Colleagues, Readers, and Supporters,

International Maritime Health (published under this title since 1999, the previous title was Bulletin of the Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Gdynia) has existed without break since 1949. It is a Polish scientific journal owned by the Interfaculty Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine of the Medical University of Gdańsk, and edited by the Polish Association of Maritime and Tropical Medicine. It is devoted to maritime, tropical, and hyperbaric medicine and sanitary problems of ports. The articles on: international transport, risk of seafaring, occupational, tropical, and travel related diseases, hygienic and prophylactic standards, and the promotion of health in the maritime work environment are in the main stream of interest.

During more than five decades it has become one of the leading periodicals in this specialty, published in English, well known throughout the world, with all papers reviewed by an international board of scientists and experts, participating in everyday activities and in important international events related to the field of maritime medicine.

As editor-in-chief of IMH, I feel proud of our history and achievements.

At the same time, we are continuously striving to improve. Nothing is perfect, changes are inevitable to face future challenges, and there is the need for more advanced forms of publishing for our journal.

International scientific cooperation creates new possibilities as well as challenges. Discussions among IMHA Members, between the staff of different maritime, tropical, and hyperbaric medicine and occupational health institutes, including WHO collaborating centres, has encouraged us to reorganize the journal. In 2008, with the assistance of the ITF Seafarers' Trust and a received grant, IMH was able to widen its range of readers by creating an internet version of our journal.

The recent agreement, concluded with the National Centre of Maritime Medicine in Bergen of the Haukeland University in Norway, created another impulse to build a new international platform for scientific cooperation.

The next step is to increase the frequency of publishing IMH: two editions of the journal are to be published in 2009, and 4 editions annually in the years 2010 and 2011. In addition, in order to raise the level of scientific quality, we want to improve the process of peer-reviewing for submitted texts according to the standards of GfSP. The final aim is to be indexed not only on Medline and CIS-ILO, but also on the Philadelphia impact list. To achieve this, funds must be raised, and a lot of additional effort is expected from every participant of the editing and publishing process.

To approach our goals, we decided to send an **invitation for sustained and active collaboration**, addressing it first of all to Members of the International Maritime Health Association, and to all institutes and centres of maritime medicine in the world: please join our efforts, express your ideas, needs, and expectations, present the results of your work and experiences by sending materials for publication in the IMH, and participate in discussions.

I decided to reorganize the Editorial Board by creating the position of Deputy Editor-in-Chief appointed by the IMHA with my agreement.

In addition, the Editorial Board and the Editorial Advisory Board have been to be expanded by the addition of new members, creative and full of enthusiasm for hard work. About 30 well-known experts from a number of maritime countries have agreed to collaborate in this capacity. We are still open for new candidates to represent different international research centres. The new board should be completed by the end of 2009 after the symposium in Goa.

Now let me express my extreme gratitude to all members of the previous Editorial Board who worked with us during recent years, to all of those who were our loyal supporters, authors of good papers, and their reviewers, and – last but not least – to the President of the IMHA and the Board of Directors, who decided that IMH should re-establish its primary position as the official journal representing the scientific activity of the IMHA. Please, stay with us for a better future. When we combine our efforts, we can achieve a great deal.

I look forward to meeting all of you during the forthcoming International Symposium on Maritime Health in Goa in September 2009, and I send my best regards to all readers and collaborators of our journal.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Bogdan Jaremin, MD, PhD  
IMH Editor-in-chief  
Gdynia, July 2009