



24 years ago, in 1994, the General Assembly of Members of the Polish Oncological Society elected Edward Towpik, MD, to act as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Nowotwory* journal. After almost a quarter of a century of excellent work for the journal and the Polish oncological community, in April 2018, Professor Edward Towpik decided to resign from this position. It is worth recalling — necessarily in a nutshell — how much he has managed to achieve during this period.

Soon after the election of the new Editor-in-Chief in *Nowotwory* principles of preparing the papers for printing recommended by the Committee of Medical Journal Editors (the so-called *Vancouver style*) were introduced. The text of these “principles”, translated by the Editorial Team, was for the first time published in Polish in our journal.

Due to the systematic growth in the number of incoming articles in 1998, the journal became a bimonthly. A year later, the format was changed and the layout modernised in accordance with global standards.

Two layers later, Professor Towpik significantly changed the role and composition of the Editorial Board, inviting a group of foreign experts to participate and creating the International Editorial Board. Moreover, the journal started publishing articles in English (in electronic form) and the title of the journal was changed (*Nowotwory Journal of Oncology*). At that time, the Editor also decided to create the position of Co-Editor (since 2001, Dr Richard F. Mould from the UK, and since 2014 — the undersigned).

The journal managed by Professor Edward Towpik has regularly published supplements on the history of Polish oncology (e.g. the first Polish edition of Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen’s work *On a new kind of rays* from 1896), texts of habilitation (DSc) dissertations, collections of lectures and summaries from oncological congresses of scientific societies, including, first of all, the four Polish Congresses in Oncology that have been held so far. Professor Edward Towpik as the Editor-in-Chief of *Nowotwory* journal initiated and developed numerous excellent monographs, such as *To bear testimony to the truth (Dać świadectwo prawdzie...)* by Professor Tadeusz Koszarowski, describing more than twenty years of effort, in the struggle leading to the Centre for Oncology being created at the Ursynów site, Warsaw.

At the turn of the first and second decade of the 21st century, the Editor-in-Chief, in close cooperation with then Board of the Polish Society of Oncology, decided to deeply professionalise the publishing process of the magazine, entrusting the issues of typesetting and printing to ViaMedica. At that time the journal received a new graphical design.

In 2013 Edward Towpik organised, together with Professor Jacek Jassem, the first Scientific Conference of *Nowotwory Journal of Oncology*, which had the character of Oxford-style debating; this being a novelty for national medical-scientific meetings. These conferences are now held annually in April; the very month in which in 1923, the first issue of the *Bulletin of the Polish Anti-Cancer Committee* was published.

In 2016 the editors decided to provide open access to the journal’s content on the Internet for all those interested (in an *open access* form) and to introduce English as the leading language. This change, initiated by Professor Edward Towpik, was the first step to raise the position of the journal in international repositories of biomedical journals and transform it into the leading scientific oncological periodical in Central Europe.

I am honoured to serve the Polish oncological community as the new Editor-in-Chief of *Nowotwory Journal of Oncology*. I am proud that my candidacy was suggested by the resigning Editor-in-Chief — Professor Edward Towpik. At the same time, I am glad that we will continue to work on the journal together, because through the decision of the General Assembly of the Polish Society of Oncology, Professor Edward Towpik shall remain a member of the Editorial Team — as the honorary Editor Emeritus.

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Editor-in-Chief