

Welcome to *Medycyna Praktyczna*: the Editor's comments

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The Board of the Polish Cardiac Society has made a decision that *Medycyna Praktyczna* will be the new publisher of *Kardiologia Polska* (*Kardiol Pol*, *Polish Heart Journal*) from April 2019 to March 2021. I would like to introduce the new player in our team.

Medycyna Praktyczna was founded in 1990 in Kraków, Poland, by a group of physicians. It publishes a range of medical journals, including the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (the 2017 impact factor of 2.65) and others focused on everyday clinical issues, as well as textbooks, some of which are available both in print and electronic versions and are being adapted into a number of foreign editions (English, Spanish, Russian). An independent national survey has shown that over 94% of Polish physicians rely on the publications of *Medycyna Praktyczna* when making diagnostic and therapeutic decisions. A broad range of electronic publications comprises the online portal, mp.pl (www.mp.pl), featuring a drug database and a number of regularly updated specialty websites (including those on cardiology, electrocardiography, and echocardiography), a newsletter for physicians sent 3 times a week (with over 100 000 subscribers), websites for patients, and office administration software for physicians. *Medycyna Praktyczna* also regularly organizes medical congresses, symposia, courses, and workshops.

I am also happy to announce that on April 4th, 2019 the journal received an exceptionally high financial support of 680 000 PLN for the years 2019 to 2020 from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. This sum has been awarded to promote editorial excellence and facilitate diffusion of scientific knowledge in the field of cardiology. This proves that *Kardiol Pol* is an important growing Polish scientific journal, which

has the potential to become one of the leading medical journals in Europe.

The title page and layout of the journal have been redesigned, mostly in red, with connotations of the heart and blood. With the implementation of a new workflow, whereby a paper is checked 3 times, including the peer-review stage, we aim to guarantee a fair, transparent, and high-quality review process. We will also keep working to guarantee a rapid editorial turnaround using a leading professional system, Editorial Manager, financed from the funds received from the Ministry. Starting from March 2019, all original papers and short communications are obligatorily evaluated by a statistical reviewer as an integral part of the review process. All materials will be double-checked for linguistic correctness, and as of April 2019, American spelling will be used in the journal. Full color photos and figures will appear on our pages, without any limitations and extra fees. Only the quality of the submitted papers and the rigor of the review process, with a considerable financial support, can enable us to achieve the success at an international level.

To disseminate clinical guidelines, expert opinions, section statements, and Polish versions of selected review or original articles among Polish cardiologists and physicians of all specialties interested in cardiology, a new periodical, *Zeszyty Edukacyjne Kardiologii Polskiej*, will be launched this year, with a publication frequency of 4 issues per year. New educational activities around the journal have the potential to make the difference in broader implementation of advances in practical recommendations. Given the paradigm shift in scientific publishing over the last years, we intend to develop electronic editions of scientific materials from

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Kardiologia Polska, making them more reader-friendly and increasing our visibility.

The path ahead is certainly full of challenges, and I am privileged to be in the position of leading *Kardiologia Polska* in this time of positive growth, when every step represents a chance of moving towards a higher quality and higher impact of our journal. We are attempting to reach the 2021 impact factor of above 2.5. The first step forward has already been made, as reflected by the estimated 2018 impact factor of *Kardiologia Polska* at the level of 1.6. I would like to thank our authors, reviewers, and editorial board members for invaluable contribution to the journal's standing and ask you for further support. Our journal will be as good as we are in our commitment to our common cause: the recognition of Polish cardiology both at home and abroad. We wish to be better and we will do our best to achieve it.

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