

The year 2020 in *Kardiologia Polska*

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It has been an extraordinary year. In March 2020, an unprecedented outbreak of a highly contagious viral infection, named coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), has marked the entire year. The ravaging pandemic has affected everyday clinical practice from a high death toll to a life-threatening disaster of untreated cardiovascular and other diseases. Very recently, the power of science has been proven with COVID-19 vaccines being approved for clinical use and the vaccination program initiated in the United Kingdom and Canada.

COVID-19 has impacted biomedical journals. In the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns have been raised about how scientific journals can maintain the high publishing standards. As in many other journals, there was a sharp increase in the number of articles submitted for publication in *Kardiologia Polska* (*Kardiol Pol*, *Polish Heart Journal*). The suspension of normal life meant more time for writing activities especially in the spring. Compared with the first 6 months of 2019, we observed an increase by 26%, 103%, and 70% in original articles, short communications, and clinical vignettes, respectively, from January to June 2020. In the last 6 months of 2020, the increase in submitted manuscripts was also noted as compared with 2019, with the corresponding values of 25%, 13%, and 29%, respectively. By the end of 2020, we are likely to exceed 1000 submissions in this year. Fast-track publications related to COVID-19 have also been published to share the newest data from a Polish perspective.

Despite multiple health-related and logistic challenges in the editorial work, the mean time from submission to the first reviews was 21 days in 2020, with the reviewing process of 7 days, on average, which indicates we have maintained our achievements from 2019.

The average time from submission to the final publication has been estimated at approximately 3 months with 6 weeks for short communications.

This year has brought some changes in our editorial team. In 2020, Dr. Mateusz Siedliński and Prof. Piotr Rozentryt joined us as associate editors responsible for basic science research and the Educational Issue (so-called *Zeszyty Edukacyjne* launched in mid-2019, published in Polish and freely available for the readership on our homepage), respectively. Since August 2020, Dr. Maciej Polak became the statistical consultant.

We are proud to remind the latest impact factor (IF) for *Kardiol Pol*. The IF for our journal has risen to 1.874 in 2020. The predicted value of this bibliometric measure calculated based on the number of citations recorded in the first 11 months of 2020 is 2.5, which denotes a huge leap to a higher category of biomedical journals. As promised, *Kardiol Pol* will start a new chapter in its more than 60 years' history. Now, with new technologies, we are fit for the future and our next goal is to achieve the IF above 3.0. We can do it.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the publisher, Medycyna Praktyczna, I am indebted to all of you who helped us improve our journal and do what was planned in the challenging 2020. This includes our Editorial Board members, our dedicated peer reviewers, our authors, and faithful readers. Special thanks go to our new Managing Editor, Joanna Łepicka.

We cordially invite all of you to follow us on our social media pages, which we regularly update with news and links. Please pay us a visit, and do not hesitate to like, share, and retweet with your colleagues.

We hope that as many of cardiologists as possible will continue to submit the best clinical

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and translational research papers to *Kardiologia Polska*. We cannot “rest on our laurels” and we are already in the process of developing new initiatives and ideas with the goal of further enhancing the quality and reputation of our journal. We look forward to working with you and for you in 2021.

May the coming year bring us success and happiness against all odds! Merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2021!

ARTICLE INFORMATION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST None declared.

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