

## We can move forward

I am delighted to announce that for the first time in many years *Kardiologia Polska* (Polish Heart Journal), the flagship periodical of the Polish Cardiac Society, has received financial support from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Our application was submitted in March 2018, although according to the current regulations it should have been sent in the autumn of 2017 to obtain support for 2018. Using a special route related to the change in the position of Editor-in-Chief, a committee approved our application and the whole sum of PLN 140,000 was awarded to the Polish Cardiac Society to help us achieve our goals. We appreciate this support.

“Scientists maintain the polite fiction that all of them are equal and do equally good science” [Łomnicki A. Impact factors reward and promote excellence. *Nature* 2003; 424: 487]. This holds true also for scientific journals in Poland, particularly in terms of financial support granted by the government. The governmental support for this purpose has not correlated with the international standing of a journal and there was no clear support for journals struggling for a higher Impact Factor (IF). A negligible improvement in a journal’s quality (if any) in most cases used to have little effect on the money assigned for the tasks proposed in the application and an achievement of a higher IF was not rewarded. Even if the tyranny of the IF is disputed, this metric remains the best way to compare journals, and it should be used to support the good ones through public funds. *Kardiologia Polska* wishes to grow and strives for excellence in various facets of the editorial process, so additional funding is much needed. We hope for positive changes in the flawed system of supporting scientific journals by public funds in Poland. Our IF is our weapon and evidence for our aspirations, ambitions, and goals to join the community of the best European cardiology journals.

This year we are focused on improving the English language of published manuscripts.

The English language has become the international lingua franca of scientific communication, and an inadequate level of English may be a barrier to the publication of otherwise scientifically worthy articles. Sometimes manuscripts containing novel ideas but not properly articulated in English may be inadvertently assigned low-priority scores, whereas less innovative but well-written articles may be prioritised. We intend to use the current financial support with the aim of minimising the language barrier and developing structured linguistic support for authors of all interesting manuscripts. Our goal for 2019, while applying for further support, is to introduce a customised professional user-friendly editorial system with all the advanced must-have functions available in the top journals, to make the statistical reviewing process of all original papers more rigorous and standardised, and to further improve editorial services for authors, reviewers, and readers. We can do it.

In the September issue there is an opportunity to read the executive summary (in Polish) presenting key practical advice from the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) experts on the use of nonvitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs); that is the new version of the original publication by Heidebuchel et al. from 2013. The issue also contains two reviews written by eminent scientists: one on the impact of arterial hypertension on cardiac remodelling and the other on reduced responsiveness to acetylsalicylic acid and clopidogrel, an invariably timely topic, not only regarding invasive treatment of patients with coronary artery disease. Six original articles, including three dealing with heart failure, and two accompanied by commentaries of experts in the field, are available, along with two short communications and six diverse clinical vignettes.

We have the plan, motivation, and tenacity to strengthen the position of our journal. To achieve it, I look forward to the continued support of Polish researchers and clinicians interested in cardiovascular disease, so that together we can continue to enhance the quality of the science we publish in *Kardiologia Polska*. The International Congress of the Polish Cardiac Society held on September 13–15, 2018 in Krakow proves that there are high-quality clinical research data from Polish groups, often generated in collaboration with other teams abroad, and all work with novel ideas and sound methodology is welcome in *Kardiologia Polska*.



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