

The man behind the journal: Editors-in-Chief of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (1923–2013)

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Introduction Internal medicine emerged from general medicine in the last decades of the 19th century. It resulted from a new definition of the disease, and substitution of an old Hippocratic idea of the imbalance of the body fluids leading to “a general disease” with a new concept of various different disorders of multiple localizations within the body. Advances in clinical observation as well as description and classification of disorders became the framework for all major branches of clinical medicine. From the very early years, internal medicine has been more than a new medical specialty.¹ It represents a new concept of clinical medicine. The internist is considered as the physician with the ability to cope with complex clinical problems and efficient diagnostician with the ability to summarize the problems arising from the involvement of various organs and systems of the body. The internist considers the patient as a whole unique human being, and all applied diagnostic and therapeutic procedures result from a holistic, competent, and comprehensive view of the patient’s problems.^{2–4}

The term “internal medicine” was coined in Germany (*innere Medizin*) and has been occasionally used since the 1850s, substituting the previous subject of medical education known as *cur-sus medicus, pathologia et therapia, or medicina clinica*. In 1889, the German Association of Internists (Verein für innere Medizin) was founded, and a year later, during the 10th International Congress of Medicine held in Berlin, the section of internal medicine was introduced for the first time to the program of this major world medical meeting.^{5–8}

The oldest known attempt to establish the association of Polish internists was presented in the address of Edward Sas-Korczyński (1844–1905) delivered at the 6th Congress of Polish Physicians and Naturalists (VI Zjazd Lekarzy i Przyrodników Polskich, Cracow, July 10,

1891).⁹ Professor Edward Sas-Korczyński was head of the newly established Department of Internal Medicine at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and went down to posterity as the author of the first in the world description of myocardial infarction diagnosed in a living patient.¹⁰ The organization of the Congresses of Polish Physicians and Naturalists was hampered by the authorities of partitioned Poland. The next congress gathered in 1900, and it passed a bill on the foundation of the Committee for Congresses of Polish Internists. The Committee was chaired by Professor Władysław Antoni Gluziński, a former assistant to Professor Korczyński, and since 1897, the Chairman of the Department of Pathology and Therapy of Individual Disorders (i.e., the Department of Internal Medicine) at the University in Lviv. After long efforts, the association was founded in 1906, and received the name of “The Society of Internists from the Polish Lands” (Towarzystwo Internistów Ziemi Polskich). The Austrian authorities (Cracow and Lviv were located in a partitioned part of Poland that was belonging to the Austro-Hungarian Empire) refused to recognize the name of the “Polish Society of Internal Medicine” because the name suggested the existence of Poland.^{11,12} Władysław A. Gluziński was the first president of the Society and chaired 4 congresses, which took place either in Cracow or in Lviv (1907–1914). After the First World War, Polish–Bolshevik War, and Silesian Insurrections, Poland regained independence. The first congress of Polish internists, which was held in an independent country, took place in Vilnius on July 8–11, 1923. The name of the society was changed to the Polish Society of Internal Medicine (Towarzystwo Internistów Polskich). Władysław A. Gluziński was once again elected president. He was also the founder of the journal of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine, the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*.

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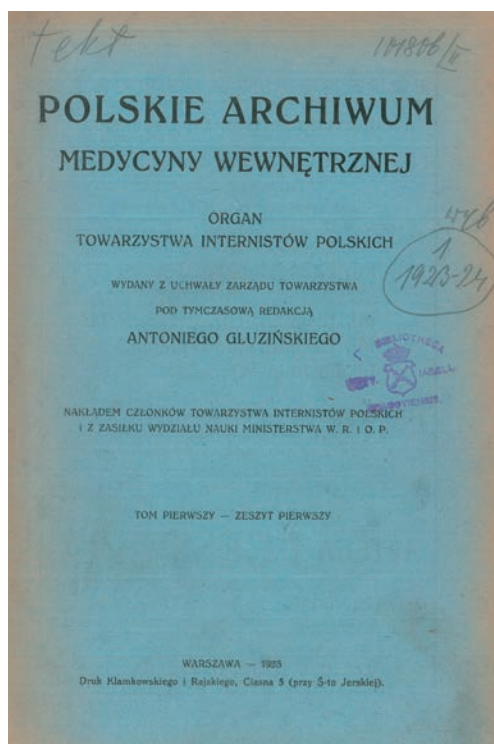
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FIGURE 1 The first issue of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (from the collection of the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow)



The journal as the printed organ of the society could appear only in an independent country. Participants of the Congress in Vilnius received the first issue of the journal (FIGURE 1), which contained a mission statement: “Now that we have more conducive circumstances in the regained, independent homeland, we have to resume work activities ... In these happily changed conditions, supported by five medical faculties and by internists from numerous hospital wards scattered over the entire territory of the Republic of Poland, yet now no longer divided but united homeland,

we combine the efforts and, full of belief, initiate the work hoping that we will not fail but that, by scientific collaboration and financial support of subscribers, we will find help, and that the *Archives* [*Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*] will be desired by all of us interested in the advances of internal medicine ... [The journal], as an organ of the Society and published as a quarterly, will be intended to archive the papers with French summaries” (FIGURE 2). Publication and dissemination of the most important papers on internal medicine is a leading mission of the journal that has been successfully fulfilled by all editors-in-chief.¹³

Władysław Antoni Gluźński Władysław Antoni Gluźński (FIGURE 3) was the first editor-in-chief until issue no. 2 of the third volume (1925). He was one of the most famous Polish physicians in the world at the turn of the 20th century. He descended from the family with medical traditions. His father, Franciszek Maciej Gluźński (1823–1899) fought for Polish and Hungarian independence (1846–1848), studied medicine in Cracow and Vienna, and became a well-known physician in Sompolno (North Poland). The mother, Waleria (née Charlais), was a daughter of a French military surgeon who stayed in Poland after the Napoleonic war. Władysław A. Gluźński was born on May 18, 1856, in Włocławek on the Vistula. He graduated from the St. Ann High School in Cracow and studied medicine at the Jagiellonian University (1874–1880). He received additional education in Dorpat (now: Tartu, Estonia) and Vienna (Austria). Upon return to Cracow, he took a position at the Department of Internal Medicine (under Professor Edward Sas-Korczyński) and Department of Physiology (under Professor

FIGURE 2 Introduction to the first issue of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* containing the mission statement and signed by the Executive Board of the society in 1923 (from the collection of the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow)

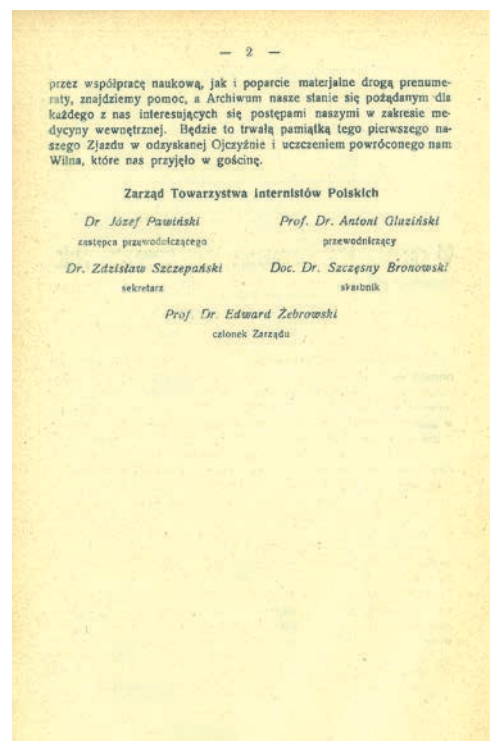
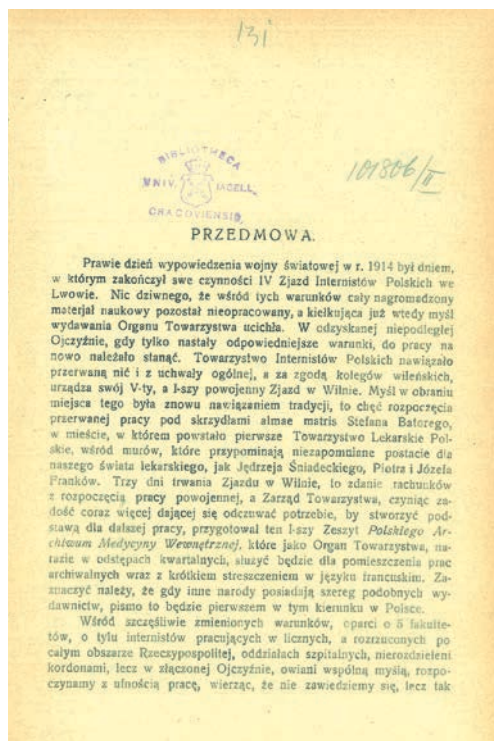


FIGURE 3 Władysław Antoni Gluziński, the founder and the first editor-in-chief of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (ca. 1930; the original in the collection of the Gluziński's family; a copy in the collection of the author)



FIGURE 4 Władysław Janowski (reprinted from *Pol Arch Med Wewn*)



Gustaw Piotrowski). He also received postgraduate education in Paris (under Jean Martin Charcot), Berlin (under Robert Koch), and Leipzig (under Carl Friedrich Ludwig). In 1893, he became head of the Department of General and Experimental Pathology in Cracow, and, in 1897, he was elected head of the newly established Department of Pathology and Therapy of Individual Disorders at the Lviv University and remained in this position for 22 years. During this time, he created a modern and active center of internal medicine. He was elected to the post of a dean of the medical college (1898–1899) and a rector of the university (1905–1906). In independent Poland, the Warsaw University was re-established and Professor Władysław A. Gluziński became head of the Second Department of Internal Medicine. Over a few years, he established a new research center; he was elected a dean of the medical college (1920–1921) and chaired the department until he retired in 1927. He died in Warsaw on April 10, 1935.^{14,15}

Władysław A. Gluziński contributed to the development of several fields of internal medicine. The most significant achievements include works on functional diagnostics of stomach disorders, discovery of localization of protein digestion within the alimentary tract, and description of the functional test for early detection of the gastric cancer (so called Gluziński's test). In 1907, he published the first clinical description of plasmocytic leukemia in the world. This paper is still widely cited in the medical literature. His book on the pathogenesis and clinical aspects of fever appeared in print in 1896. Unfortunately, the book was not translated into German. It is one of the most comprehensive monographs on fever but because of language barrier, it remained unknown to the medical world. He contributed to the activities of several scientific institutions

and was cofounder of the All-Slavonic Congresses of Medicine.^{16,17}

Władysław Janowski Professor Gluziński stepped down from the position of the editor-in-chief and since 1925, the post was held by Władysław Janowski (FIGURE 4). He was born on October 31, 1866, in Warsaw. He received early education at home, and later attended the high school and studied medicine in Warsaw. He graduated with honors in 1890. As a student, he already conducted research and his publication on acute inflammation was awarded by the Warsaw College of Medicine with a silver medal for outstanding students. Władysław Janowski was an assistant of Dr Teodor Dunin (1854–1909) in the Ward of Internal Medicine at the Baby Jesus Hospital in Warsaw. He also held a position in the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology at the Warsaw University. In 1897, he became head of the Ward of Internal Medicine. The title of associate professor was granted to him in 1903, upon presentation of the thesis to the Medical Academy in St. Petersburg.

Professor Władysław Janowski had outstanding achievements. He published about 100 papers in Polish and more than 100 others in German, French, English, Italian, Spanish, and Russian. His papers appeared in world's leading journals (e.g., *The Lancet*, *Wiener Klinische Wochenschrift*, *Presse medicale*, *Russkii Vrach*). The scope of his research was wide and included bacteriology, serology, cardiology, pharmacology, and many others. Professor Władysław Janowski passed away after a brief illness in Warsaw on April 11, 1928.¹⁸

Witold Eugeniusz Orłowski Once Professor Janowski passed away, the new editor-in-chief was elected. The post was given to the famous Polish internist, Professor Witold Eugeniusz

FIGURE 5 Witold Eugeniusz Orłowski (1930s, reprinted from *Pol Arch Med Wewn*)

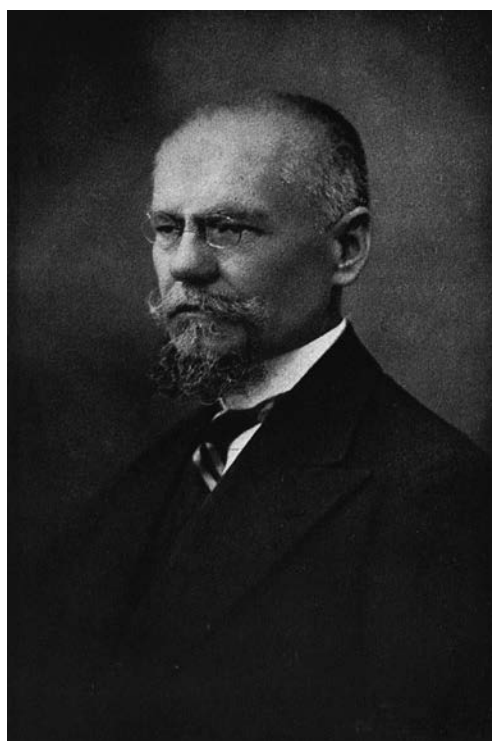
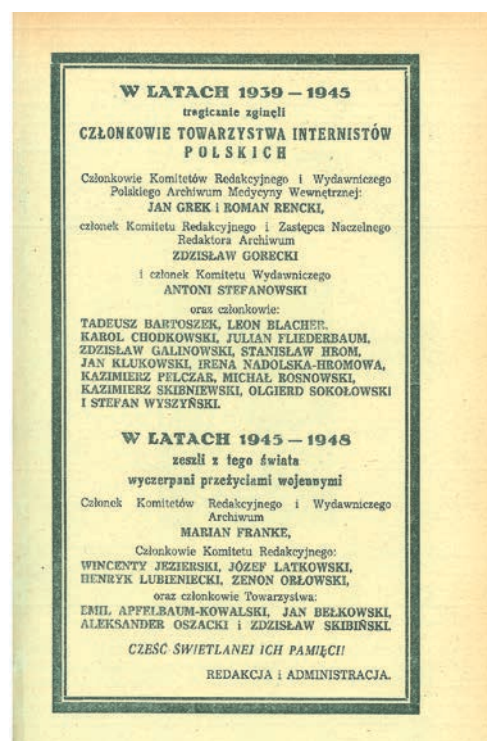


FIGURE 6 Obituary honoring the memory of the members of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine who were killed or died during the Second World War (reprinted from *Pol Arch Med Wewn*)



Orłowski (FIGURE 5) who led the journal until the outbreak of the Second World War on September 1, 1939. The *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* appeared as a quarterly, and 13 volumes went out of print. The papers were published in Polish and were supplemented with extensive summaries in French. The publication of so called chronicle of the society is now the only source for historical studies because all archives of the society were burnt during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. The last issue (no. 3, vol. 13) appeared in August 1939, a few days before the outbreak of the war. The issue contained papers of the 13th Congress of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine, which was scheduled to take place in Katowice in September 1939.

Witold E. Orłowski was one of the greatest Polish physicians of the 20th century. He was born on February 6, 1874, in Norwidpole, the region of Borysov in the province of Minsk (now Belarus). He was a son of Franciszek Orłowski, the administrator of the Polish estate of Tukały Milcz, and his wife Paulina Orłowska (née Onichomowska). The Orłowskis moved to Vilnius in 1882, where Witold Eugeniusz graduated from the Second High School with a gold medal in 1891. He entered the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg together with his brothers, Zenon Orłowski and Mieczysław Orłowski. Five years later, in November 1896, Witold Orłowski graduated with honors from the Academy awarded with the Ivanov Award. After graduation, he received additional training in bacteriology (under Professor Sergiei I. Botkin) and physiology (under Professor Ivan P. Pavlov). He became an assistant of Professor Fedor I. Pasternatsky, the head of the University Hospital of Internal Medicine in St. Petersburg. During summer, he worked in a famous Caucasian

health resort, Yessentuki (region Stavropol, Russia). On March 15, 1907, he was elected to hold the prestigious position of professor of internal medicine at the Kazan University. In 1912, he became the head of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Kazan University.¹⁹

Professor Witold E. Orłowski was a very active member of the Polish associations in Russia. He was a cofounder of the Association of Polish Physicians in St. Petersburg and was its scientific secretary (1903–1907). He was also a cofounder of the Polish medical journal, *Polish Medical Monthly* (*Polski Miesięcznik Lekarski*) published in Kiev. During the First World War, he was a member of the Executive Board of the Kazan Division of the Committee for assistance to War Victims. He organized protection of Polish war-prisoners and Poles displaced to Russia. During the Russian Revolution in 1917, he became chief executive officer of the Provincial Hospital of Kazan Aristocracy. He also contributed to the organization of medical service in the Polish Army in Russia. In September 1918, Professor Orłowski moved to Tomsk and, in August 1919, to Irkuck. While in Irkuck, he received an invitation from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow to join the university. He was nominated to the post of professor of internal medicine. He began to lecture in Cracow in January 1921. In a short time, his department became an active research and clinical center. He was elected dean of the medical college (1921–1922). He also re-established the Cracow Division of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. In January 1926, he moved to Warsaw and became the head of the Second Department of Internal Medicine at the Warsaw University. His department rapidly developed into a leading medical center. During the Second World War, Professor Witold E. Orłowski

FIGURE 7 Andrzej Piotr Biernacki (reprinted from Pol Arch Med Wewn)



worked in the hospital and was engaged in underground medical education. After the war, he was active in restoration of the university. He retired in 1948 from the university but remained head of the Second Municipal Hospital in Warsaw until 1957. He was also active in the Institute for Postgraduate Training in Warsaw. Finally, he retired in 1961 but continued his research and editorial work until the last days of his life. Professor Witold E. Orłowski died on December 2, 1966, in Warsaw.²⁰

It is difficult to summarize the achievements of Professor Orłowski. His main idea in scientific work in internal medicine was to combine the new discoveries in basic sciences (biochemistry, pathophysiology, and immunology) with clinical practice of holistic concept of internal medicine. He contributed to almost all fields of internal medicine. In addition to his research achievements, Professor Orłowski was widely recognized for his tireless educational efforts. His love for teaching earned him respect, affection, and devotion of many physicians. He was a supervisor of 33 associate professor theses (so called habilitations) and his associates worked in all Polish medical universities and several universities abroad. Now, the third and fourth generation of internists continues the basic concept of Professor Orłowski's understanding of internal medicine.

Professor Orłowski became famous as the author of several textbooks. Still in Kazan, he published *Handbook of Analysis of Urine* (in Russian). Two volumes of *Pathology and Therapy of Internal Diseases* appeared in 1933. His book *An Outline of General Medical Diagnostics* has a number of editions and was popular among a few generations of Polish physicians. The main work of Professor Orłowski is the multivolume treatise *Internal Diseases* (*Choroby wewnętrzne*). The book appeared in 8 volumes. It was the last Polish

comprehensive textbook of internal medicine authored by a single author. The book is a masterpiece and served during decades to Polish physicians and medical students.

After the end of the Second World War, the society re-established its activity and in 1948 Professor Orłowski was able to publish the first postwar volume of the journal. He held the post of the editor-in-chief until 1949 and was replaced by Professor Andrzej Piotr Biernacki. The first issue published after the Second World War was a volume commemorating the 50 years of scientific activity of Professor Witold E. Orłowski. The same volume honored the memory of the members of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine who were killed or died during (or just after) the war. The obituary is shown in [FIGURE 6](#).

Andrzej Piotr Biernacki Professor Andrzej Piotr Biernacki ([FIGURE 7](#)) was born on March 14, 1903, in Lublin to a family of a famous physician. After graduation from the August and Julian Vetter High School in Lublin, he studied medicine in Warsaw. In 1928, he received his medical degree from the Warsaw University. He received postgraduate education in Paris and in the Institute of Hygiene chaired by Professor Ludwik Hirsfeld in Warsaw. In 1929, Professor Andrzej P. Biernacki went to Brazil as a physician of the Polish settlement "Orzeł Biały" ("The White Eagle") in the state of Espirito Santo. Later, he conducted research in the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz in Rio de Janeiro. Upon return to Poland, Professor Biernacki became an assistant of Professor Witold E. Orłowski in the Second Department of Internal Medicine at the Warsaw University. After a short time, he was promoted to the post of the head of the Tuberculosis Division at the department. Tuberculosis was a subject of his numerous research projects including those performed in the Carlo Forlanini Institute in Rome. The Second World War interrupted his scientific and clinical career. After the war, he took a position at the First Department of Internal Medicine in Warsaw and since 1948 he was the chairman of the department. Professor Andrzej P. Biernacki was a very successful scientist. He published about 75 original papers, and a few hundred studies were conducted under his supervision by his disciples. The main fields of his research were hemodynamic and hematological alterations found in patients with tuberculosis, advanced circulatory failure, and pathophysiology of hypertension. Professor Biernacki held a number of positions in scientific societies and institutions, including the scientific secretary of the Medical Division of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Professor Biernacki was a physician interested in sport, tourism as well as music and literature. His wife was Grażyna Bacewicz, a world famous violinist and composer. Professor Biernacki died on July 30, 1963, in Warsaw.²¹

The years 1948–1992 are considered as the second period in the history of the journal.

FIGURE 8 Tadeusz Orłowski (reprinted from Pol Arch Med Wewn)

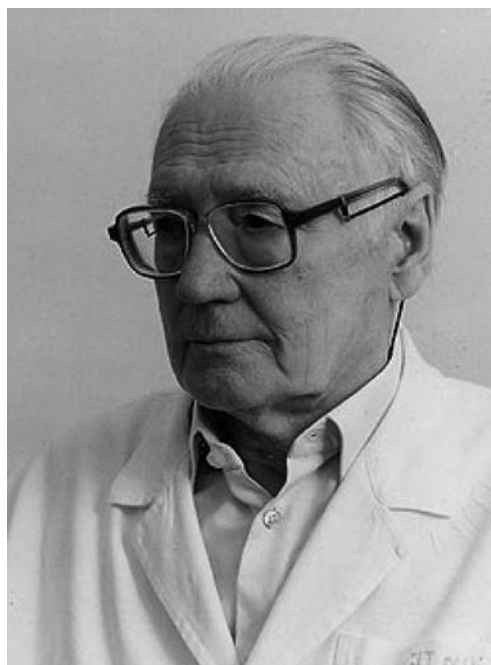


FIGURE 9 Artur Czyżyk (a photograph by Krzysztof Niesporek 2006; personal collection of the author)



The journal was re-established by Professor Witold E. Orłowski and was published by the Medical Publishing Institute in Warsaw (Instytut Medyczny-Wydawniczy) that was nationalized as the State Medical Publishers (Państwowy Zakład Wydawnictw Lekarskich). At the beginning, the journal was published 4 times a year (1948–1954), then as a bimonthly (1954–1956), and since 1956, it appeared as a monthly. Issues 1–6 and 7–12 were considered as 2 separate volumes until 2008. At present, issues 1–12 constitute 1 annual volume.

The journal published several supplements and special issues. Most of them contained proceedings of the conferences of other societies representing subspecialties of internal medicine (e.g., rheumatology, hematology), which in those days did not have their own official journals.

Tadeusz Orłowski After the death of Professor Biernacki, Tadeusz Orłowski, a son of Professor Witold E. Orłowski, was elected editor-in-chief. Professor Tadeusz Orłowski had been a vice editor-in-chief since 1955, and was a close co-worker in the editorial board of Professor Andrzej Biernacki. A new editor-in-chief of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* had been holding the post since issue 12 in 1963. Professor Tadeusz Orłowski (**FIGURE 8**) was born on September 13, 1917, in Kazan (Russia) where his father was head of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Kazan University. Shortly after, the Orłowskis returned to Poland and Tadeusz Orłowski spent almost whole his life in Warsaw. He completed a high school in 1936 and finished medicine at the underground university in Warsaw (1943). After the Second World War, he was an assistant of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Warsaw University (later the Medical Academy in Warsaw) and, in 1952,

he received the title of associate professor. He was in charge of the Hospital of the Hunan Medical Institute (Korea) for 1 year (August 1, 1954 – March 31, 1955). Later, he was a visiting researcher in Lund (Sweden, 1958), St. Louis (United States, 1959–1960), London (United Kingdom, 1962), and Pisa (Italy, 1962). He was appointed to the post of chairman of the First Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical Academy in Warsaw in 1963, and held the post until 1975. Later, he was the director of the Transplantation Institute (1975–1987) and a professor at the Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering of the Polish Academy of Sciences (1990–2008).

Professor Tadeusz Orłowski had outstanding scientific achievements. He authored a number of original papers and numerous chapters in medical textbooks. His research focused on clinical biochemistry, nephrology, dialysis therapy, and transplantation. Professor Tadeusz Orłowski died on July 30, 2008, in Warsaw.^{22–25}

In 1992, the State Medical Publishers cancelled the agreement with the Polish Society of Internal Medicine for printing of the journal. In the years 1993–1998, the journal was published by the society. Later, the journal was published by the Polish Division of Elsevier, and it was taken over in 2008 by the Medycyna Praktyczna Publishing House. Since 1948, all papers have been supplemented with the English summary (1950–1992 additionally with the Russian summary), and since 2008 all materials published in the journal have appeared in English.

In 1995, the General Assembly of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine offered the post of the editor-in-chief to Professor Artur Czyżyk. He became the editor in 1996, since the first issue.

FIGURE 10 Anetta Undas



Artur Czyżyk Professor Artur Czyżyk (FIGURE 9) was born on February 6, 1927, in Bodzentyn to a family of teachers. He completed high school education in the Marcin Kromer High School in Gorlice and studied medicine at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. After graduation in 1950, he obtained his PhD degree in pharmacology and since February 1951 he took a position at the Third Department of Internal Medicine in Warsaw under Professor Jakub Węgieńko (1889–1960), a pioneer of Polish diabetology. Professor Artur Czyżyk followed his master footsteps and carried out fruitful research in diabetology. He received postgraduate education in Karlsberg (Germany) and Paris (France), and was head of the Third Department of Internal Medicine (renamed in 1975 as Department of Gastroenterology and Metabolic Disorders) in Warsaw (1968–1997). He transferred the department into an internationally recognized diabetes center.

In recognition of his achievements, he was the only Pole awarded with the honorary membership of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes. His research focused on ketoacidosis, mode of activity of biguanides, immunogenicity of insulin, and epidemiology of diabetes. Professor Artur Czyżyk died on July 15, 2012, in Warsaw.²⁶

Anetta Undas The most important changes in the journal have taken place under Professor Anetta Undas (FIGURE 10) as the editor-in-chief (since issue 5, 2008). Earlier (since issue 1–2, 2007), she was a vice editor-in-chief. The International Scientific Board was appointed and a number of foreign authors publishing their papers in the journal has significantly increased. The international recognition of the journal, which has become available free in the full-text form online,

resulted in successful application for the impact factor. The impact factor of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* has been increasing, which is closely related to an increase in the number of citations. It is clear that the year 2007 has opened a new era in the history of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*.

It is difficult to tell what will happen in the future. On the 50th anniversary of the journal in 1973, the history of the journal was summarized by Roman Dzierżanowski.²⁷ I wrote the jubilee paper for the 80th anniversary of the first issue of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*.¹³ I feel very honored to be invited to author the paper published 90 years after the first issue of the journal had been published. I do not know who will be writing the jubilee paper on the centenary of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*, but I am convinced that the journal will be flourishing and this will be a combined effort of all editors-in-chief. As internists, readers, and authors of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine*, we are willing to express our gratitude for the dedication of the editors whose hard work, although not readily visible to the reader, promotes the achievements of internal medicine and serve the patients.

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