

Journal impact factor revisited

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As it usually happens at this time of the year, we are looking at new journal impact factors (IFs) of Polish biomedical journals. This year we are happy to announce that the 2017 IF for *Pol Arch Intern Med* is 2.658, and it has increased by 15% as compared with the previous year (TABLE 1). We are proud of this excellent result, as the 2017 IFs of the other journals increased on average by 10%. Moreover, we have been ranked by Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters) in the **highest Journal Impact Factor Quartile (Q1)** in the category of “Medicine, General & Internal” journals

(encompassing such journals as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *JAMA*, or *BMJ*). A journal's quartile ranking is determined by comparing a journal to others in its Journal Citation Reports category, sourced from the Web of Science Core Collection, based on the IF score. If a journal falls in the Q1 category, it means that it performs better than at least 75% of journals in that category.

This is a tremendous honor for our journal, and this success would not have been achieved without our authors and hard work of the reviewers, Editorial Board, and editorial staff.

TABLE 1 Impact factors of Polish biomedical journals (based on 2017 Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate Analytics)

Journal	Impact factor 2017	Impact factor 2016
Archivum Immunologiae et Therapiae Experimentalis	↑ 3.018	2.040
Pharmacological Reports	↑ 2.787	2.686
Polish Archives of Internal Medicine	↑ 2.658	2.309
Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology	↓ 2.478	2.883
Archives of Medical Science	↑ 2.344	1.969
Journal of Contemporary Brachytherapy	↑ 2.146	1.496
Advances in Medical Sciences	↑ 2.064	1.364
Hereditary Cancer in Clinical Practice	↑ 2.027	1.590
Central European Journal of Immunology	↑ 1.787	0.776
Journal of Applied Genetics	↑ 1.756	1.655
Postępy Dermatologii i Alergologii	↓ 1.471	1.683
Postępy w Kardiologii Interwencyjnej	↑ 1.443	0.917
Folia Neuropathologica	↑ 1.345	1.093
Cardiology Journal	↑ 1.339	1.256
Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine	↑ 1.262	1.179
Kardiologia Polska	↓ 1.227	1.341
Endokrynologia Polska	↓ 1.059	1.341
Polish Journal of Pathology	↓ 0.865	0.990
Neurologia i Neurochirurgia Polska	↓ 0.817	0.857
Postępy Higieny i Medycyny Doświadczalnej	↑ 0.783	0.690
Ginekologia Polska	↑ 0.621	0.576
Folia Morphologica	↑ 0.497	0.341
Open Medicine	↑ 0.484	0.294

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TABLE 2 Most cited original and review papers contributing to IF 2017 (based on Web of Science Core Collection, Clarivate Analytics; June 17, 2018)

No.	Paper	Citation count in 2017 (total citation count)
1	Kasińska MA, Drzewoski J. Effectiveness of probiotics in type 2 diabetes: a meta-analysis. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 803-813.	10 (18)
2	Gąsior M, Pres D, Wojakowski W, et al. Causes of hospitalization and prognosis in patients with cardiovascular diseases: secular trends in the years 2006–2014 according to the Silesian CARDiovascular (SILCARD) database. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2016; 126: 754-762.	9 (13)
3	Świerkot J, Ślęzak R, Karpiński P, et al. Associations between single-nucleotide polymorphisms of RFC-1, GGH, MTHFR, TYMS, and TCII genes and the efficacy and toxicity of methotrexate treatment in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 152-161.	8 (16)
4	Prejbisz A, Kłoczek M, Gąsowski J, et al. Factors associated with resistant hypertension in a large cohort of hypertensive patients: the Pol-Fokus study. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 249-259.	8 (11)
5	Golicki D, Niewada M. General population reference values for 3-level EQ-5D (EQ-5D-3L) questionnaire in Poland. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 18-26.	7 (18)
6	Florczak E, Tokarczyk B, Warchol-Celińska E, et al. Assessment of adherence to treatment in patients with resistant hypertension using toxicological serum analysis: a subgroup evaluation of the RESIST-POL study. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 65-72.	7 (15)
7	Hart RG, Ng KH. Stroke prevention in asymptomatic carotid artery disease: revascularization of carotid stenosis is not the solution. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 363-369.	7 (9)
8	Kurnatowska I, Grzelak P, Masajtis-Zagajewska A, et al. Effect of vitamin K2 on progression of atherosclerosis and vascular calcification in nondialyzed patients with chronic kidney disease stages 3–5. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 631-640.	6 (18)
9	Pludowski P, Ducki C, Konstantynowicz J, Jaworski M. Vitamin D status in Poland. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2016; 126: 530-539.	6 (13)
10	Pengo V, Denas G, Padayattil SJ, et al. Diagnosis and therapy of antiphospholipid syndrome. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 672-677.	6 (13)
11	Krasińska B, Miazga A, Cofta S, et al. Effect of eplerenone on the severity of obstructive sleep apnea and arterial stiffness in patients with resistant arterial hypertension. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2016; 126: 330-339.	6 (11)
12	Kapłon-Cieślicka A, Ozierański K, Balsam P, et al. Clinical characteristics and 1-year outcome of hyponatremic patients hospitalized for heart failure. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 120-131.	6 (10)
13	Kaluźna M, Hoppe K, Schwermer K, et al. Adropin and irisin levels in relation to nutrition, body composition, and insulin resistance in patients with end-stage renal disease on chronic hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2016; 126: 474-482.	6 (8)
14	Rusak M, Eljaszewicz A, Bolkun Ł, et al. Prognostic significance of PD-1 expression on peripheral blood CD4+T cells in patients with newly diagnosed chronic lymphocytic leukemia. <i>Pol Arch Med Wewn.</i> 2015; 125: 553-559.	6 (7)

Although the current IF gives us a strong position nationally and even internationally, we are aware of the shortcomings of the IF as a measure of the journal's impact. Clarivate Analytics calculates it annually by dividing the number of current-year citations to source items published in that journal during the previous 2 years. The IF, however simplified and imperfect, currently exists as the main measure for assessing the quality and importance of medical journals. The main disadvantage of such a system is that journals may favor the papers because they will be highly cited and could affect their IF. In *Pol Arch Intern Med*, we avoid accepting manuscripts just for their "citability" and significance for the IF score. Rather, we place priority on the novelty and sound methodology of research. We also favor papers that may be important for readers, can influence clinical practice, and have a translational value. Finally, our experience over the last years shows that it is quite difficult to predict how the papers will be cited.

Several original and review papers, covering diverse topics in the field of internal medicine, had a major contribution to the 2017 IF of *Pol Arch Intern Med*. The articles published in

the years 2015–2016 that were most highly cited in 2017 are listed in [TABLE 2](#). We consider this a good sign that all of the most cited original papers were submitted by Polish researchers and that their quality helped us improve our standing among medical journals. Moreover, it is the original papers that contributed most to this year's IF, which is a continuous trend in *Pol Arch Intern Med*. We believe that the journal has a strong potential for becoming an internationally recognized and an influential periodical, and again we would like to thank all authors who submitted their manuscripts to us.

Currently, the manuscript acceptance rate is 37%. Some papers are still rejected without peer review, which is an increasingly common policy among journals. It is guided by the fact that many submitted papers do not fit into the thematic scope of the journal or editors have concerns about the novelty or quality of submitted research. Another reason is to reduce the burden for our external reviewers. In this editorial, we would like to acknowledge their excellent work. Without their commitment and critical attitude, it would not be possible to select the best papers for publication. The most active

TABLE 3 Most active reviewers in 2017 (based on Editorial Manager report)

Daniel P. Potaczek
Artur Dziewierz
Aleksandra Araszkiewicz
Anna Tomaszuk-Kazberuk
Jolanta Małyszko

TABLE 4 Authors with greatest contribution to the 2017 journal impact factor (based on Web of Science Core Collection)

Anetta Undas
Krzysztof J. Filipiak
Mariusz Gąsior
Artur Dziewierz
Andrzej Januszewicz
Piotr Podolec

reviewers in 2017 are listed in [TABLE 3](#). The list of all reviewers who contributed a review in 2017 can be found on the journal's [website](#).

We sincerely invite all authors to submit their high-quality research to our journal, both in the format of original papers and research letters. The latter is dedicated especially for reporting preliminary and focused results of original investigations that deserve rapid publication. Despite the increasing volume of submissions, we still guarantee quick editorial processing times: from submission to the first decision, 2 days; from submission to first reviews, 25 days; and from acceptance to online publication, 16 days. This would not be possible without the hard work of our Managing Editors: formerly Weronika Kuźdżał and currently Maria Piasecka, PhD.

We also encourage all authors to cite any relevant papers published in *Pol Arch Intern Med* in their works. We are very grateful to the authors whose citations contributed significantly to our IF ([TABLE 4](#)).

We would like to announce that as of August 1, 2018, Professor Grzegorz Gajos, former Vice Editor-in-Chief, is the Executive Editor of *Pol Arch Intern Med*. He is responsible for the editorial processes, working in close collaboration with the Editorial Board, including Professor Anetta Undas.

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