

Professor Aleksander Januszkiewicz, an editor of *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (1923–1955): tribute on the 95th anniversary of journal foundation

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It has been 95 years since the first issue of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* journal appeared in print. The first copies were distributed on July 8–11, 1923, among participants of the 5th Congress of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine in Vilna (now Vilnius, Lithuania). The journal was established thanks to long-lasting efforts of the founder of the society—Władysław Antoni Gluziński.^{1,2} He was also the editor of the first issue of the journal, and the journal's editorial board was appointed under his chairmanship by the participants of the Congress. The early years of the society's activity³ and the life and achievements of Władysław Antoni Gluziński^{4,5} were overviewed in this journal a few years ago on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the society's foundation⁶ as well as elsewhere.^{7–9}

The list of editorial board members may be found on the title page of the first volume. The board had 14 members representing the main medical centers (Warsaw, Kraków, Lvov, Vilnius, and Poznań) as well as cities without university school of medicine, such as Łódź and Częstochowa.¹⁰ The list has been changing over time, with new editors-in-chief being appointed, but one of the members—Aleksander Januszkiewicz—had been on the board until his death in 1955 and served the journal for more than 3 decades.¹¹

The 95th anniversary of the journal's foundation is an opportunity to recall Aleksander Januszkiewicz (FIGURE 1), who contributed to a number of volumes of the journal and was a leading organizer of the 5th Congress of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. He was the only member of the first editorial board who represented the reopened Stefan Batory University in Vilnius.

Aleksander Januszkiewicz was born on February 17, 1872, in the village Zarydyńce near the

city of Niemirów (now Nemyriv, Ukraine). He was the son of Marian Januszkiewicz, an estate owner, and his wife, Walentyna née Regulaska. He attended a high school in Niemirów and studied medicine at Kiev University (1893–1899). After graduation with honors, Januszkiewicz received postgraduate education in internal medicine. He was an assistant of Vasiliy Pamienowich Obrazcov (1849–1920), who was famous for his



FIGURE 1 Aleksander Januszkiewicz (reproduced from Wikipedia¹⁶; this photo is distributed under the terms and conditions of the CC BY-SA 3.0 Creative Commons license)

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research on myocardial infarction. He also studied pathology and bacteriology in the laboratory of Vladimir Vysokovich (1854–1912) in Kiev and received clinical education in Berlin under supervision of famous German internists, Ernst Viktor von Leyden (1832–1919) and Georg Klemperer (1865–1946).¹²

Januszkiewicz was a coworker of Gluziński in Warsaw since December 1919. In 1921, he became a professor of Stefan Batory University in Vilnius. He was one of the founders of the Medical Faculty and was later elected dean of the faculty (twice) and rector of the university (1930–1932). In 1945, when Vilnius was incorporated into the Soviet Union, he moved to Kalisz (Poland), where he worked until retirement. For several years, he was an active member of the Medical Society in Kalisz (Kaliskie Towarzystwo Lekarskie). He died in Kalisz on December 24, 1955.^{13,14} His son, Stanisław Januszkiewicz (1903–1979), was a prominent Polish radiologist and the author of a very popular textbook of radiology for medical students.

The main scientific contribution of Januszkiewicz was his research on hypertension. He introduced a pathophysiological classification of arterial hypertension and was the first in Poland to describe essential hypertension. In 1929, he was one of the main speakers at the 8th Congress of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. The Congress was organized also in Vilnius on September 26–29, 1929. His plenary lecture was published in *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* as a voluminous work of about 80 pages.¹⁵ He distinguished primary (ie, essential) hypertension and considered it a systemic disorder (hypertension disease). Januszkiewicz provided some epidemiological data and revealed that physical work is associated with blood pressure lowering. Among other pioneering achievements, he provided a novel insight into the etiology of some forms of arterial hypertension as functional disturbances. In those days of a progressive development of cellular pathology, etiopathogenesis of almost all disorders was attributed to various structural alterations detectable with pathological methods and visible at autopsy. Thus, the concept of the functional origin of some forms of hypertension that Januszkiewicz proposed was groundbreaking. He was also one of the first researchers who described a physiological decrease in blood pressure during sleep. He put forward a hypothesis that the adrenal glands were involved in the development of hypertension. It should be noted that when he wrote his paper, adrenaline was the only known adrenal hormone, so it was a very original observation. He also published valuable papers on the medical aspects of Polish spas.

Aleksander Januszkiewicz was an active member of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine. He organized the Congress in Vilnius in 1925. During the Congress, the society's name—Polish Society of Internal Medicine—was declared. Earlier, when Poland was not an independent country,

the occupants did not agree to the use of the word “Poland” and the society was active as the Society of Internal Medicine of the Polish Lands (Towarzystwo Internistów Ziem Polskich). Professor Januszkiewicz was awarded the title of honorary member of the Polish Society of Internal Medicine, which is the highest distinction possible for internists in Poland.

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