

Professor Tadeusz Orłowski – editor-in-chief of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (1963–1994)

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Professor Tadeusz Orłowski's position of the editor-in-chief of the *Polish Archives of Internal Medicine* (*Polskie Archiwum Medycyny Wewnętrznej* – PAMW) was not only an important part of his medical career but also a great benefit to the development of internal medicine in Poland.

The first issue of the PAMW, an official journal of the newly established Polish Society of Internal Medicine, appeared in 1923. The first editor-in-chief in the years 1923–1925 was Antoni Gluziński, followed by Władysław Janowski (1925–1928), who was then succeeded by Professor Witold Orłowski. The latter laid foundations for contemporary internal medicine in Poland, based on pathophysiology and clinical biochemistry. Professor Orłowski held the post until 1949 with a break during World War II and German occupation in Poland. In 1949, the position of the editor-in-chief was taken over by Professor Andrzej Biernacki, Witold Orłowski's student. He died in 1963 and was succeeded by Professor Tadeusz Orłowski, the son of Witold Orłowski.

First a quarterly and then a monthly, the PAMW published scientific papers of the highest possible quality. Control groups and statistical analyses became obligatory for all comparative papers. This may now appear odd, in the era of evidence-based medicine, but in the previous decades many medical contributions did not conform with these principles.

All submissions used to be first read by Professor Orłowski. He would then select reviewers and approve the final version of the manuscript corrected according to reviewers' comments. Professor Orłowski in collaboration with myself introduced bilingual (Polish and English) captions to all figures and tables together with English abstracts. Both captions

and abstracts had to be often translated into English by a deputy editor.

Potential new topics of future scientific studies were often suggested by Professor Orłowski to researchers and then published in the PAMW.

In the 1970s, the PAMW faced serious financial difficulties. Polish economy was gradually crumbling. The editor-in-chief (Professor Orłowski), his deputy (Janusz Szajewski) and the secretary (Ryszard Feldman) decided to work for free, while the technical assistant (Mrs. Lidia Jaworek) was paid a token sum of money. The monthly was printed on the lowest quality paper and in a smaller format. Owing to the great authority of Professor Orłowski and commitment of the editorial board, the PAMW managed to survive. At the same time a very popular Polish journal, the *Polish Medical Weekly* (*Polski Tygodnik Lekarski*), appeared only in 100 copies and soon ceased to be published.

As years went by and Professor Orłowski's health deteriorated, many of his duties were taken over by his deputy and secretary, although Professor continued to select reviewers and make final decisions on consecutive PAMW issues.

In 1994, Professor Orłowski resigned as the editor-in-chief and his decision left the whole editorial team with a sense of sadness.

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