

Dear Readers,

We are starting the year 2022 with a new issue of *Reumatologia* containing several interesting articles.

Among the original papers, our readers will find articles about research on IgG4-dependent disease, potential new biomarkers in rheumatoid arthritis – such as IL-1 β , IFN- γ , and sP-selectin – and the association between the level of FOXP3 expression and gender in juvenile idiopathic arthritis patients. We also present a study on the quality of life of patients with RA and coexisting Lyme disease. Reviews published in the current issue include papers discussing the subjects of assessment of joint involvement in systemic connective tissue diseases and statin-induced necrotizing autoimmune myopathy. For those seeking to broaden their clinical perspective, we present a case-based review on the coexistence of spina bifida occulta and lumbosacral transitional vertebra, with clinical observations, which may be particularly useful in the diagnosis of lower back pain.

We would also like to draw your attention to the report on the activity of the Polish Section of Young Rheumatologists, which is part of the activity of the EMerging EULAR NETWORK (EMEUNET).

The beginning of the year is also the right moment to make corrections and changes to the rules for authors publishing their work in *Reumatologia*, with the aim of making those rules more consistent and transparent, while giving authors more efficient tools to present their scientific papers. We hope that the introduced changes will also guarantee that the current high quality of published articles is maintained.

We also invite all members of our *Reumatologia* community – readers, authors, and editors alike – to visit the *Reumatologia* social media pages. We encourage everyone to get involved with a tweet or a comment. Your activity will certainly stir some scientific discourse and give a new impulse to further research on the issues you find intriguing.

Presenting this issue, we hope you enjoy reading it!

Reumatologia with Ukraine!

For the whole world, current events and Russian aggression turned out to be a shock, hindering scientific effort and peaceful development, but still – leading to a breakthrough in the way we think and act. In today's Europe we all collaborate with each other, especially on the scientific field. Among the editors, members of the scientific council, authors and reviewers, as well as readers of the journal *Reumatologia*, there are many colleagues from Ukraine, including editor Olena Zimba, member of the Scientific Council Roman Yatsyshyn, and among the authors e.g. Oksana Boyarchuk, Yaryna Boyko, Viktoriia Ivanova, Maryna Vakaruk, Nataliia Shevchenko, Nataliia Vaizer, Tamila Kozina, Olha Synoverska, Oksana Chubata, Olha Marchuk, Anna Havryliuk, Svitlana I. Smiyan, Valentyna V. Yuskevych, Igor V. Zhulkevych, Oleksandra S. Makhovska et al. We keep in our memory professor Anatol Świącicki (Анатолій Станіславович Свінціцький), who passed away in 2020, president of the "Association of Polish doctors in Ukraine", academician of the Academy of Higher Sciences of Ukraine, honorary member of the Polish Academy of Medicine, member of the World Academy of Albert Schweitzer – and also our friend, long-time member of the scientific council and reviewer of *Reumatologia*. The involvement of our Ukrainian Friends in the *Reumatologia* community is the evidence of our cooperation and pursuit of the same peaceful goals.

Today, at the time so tragic for Ukraine and Europe, the scientific community should also come together and protest in every possible way against all actions, that contradict ideals, that should guide the mankind.

On behalf of the editorial staff of our journal I would like to express not only our deepest sympathy and support for our Ukrainian Colleagues, but also ask them to let us all now, how can we help them and their families.

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*On behalf of the Editorial Team
Maria Maślińska
Editor-in-chief*