

## Dear Readers,

The current issue of *Reumatologia* brings you, as always, a high load of scientific information from the world of rheumatology. The diversity of presented articles corresponds with the multiplicity of issues associated with rheumatic diseases and their heterogeneity. All rheumatic diseases – whether they mainly affect joints or are dominated by organ involvement – pose a risk of disability and organ damage and are associated with mental health disturbances.

This complexity is reflected in the article concerning systemic lupus erythematosus, which is viewed not only from the perspective of organ involvement, but also in the light of an analysis of patients' age and their geographical origin.

From this issue of *Reumatologia* we will also learn of new potential biomarkers in rheumatoid arthritis and the problem of alexithymia.

We would like to draw your attention especially to the latter phenomenon, as it is not intuitively associated with rheumatology. Alexithymia, described in 1973 by Peter Sifneos, consists of a set of intriguing features, which include, among others, inability to recognize emotions or interpret physiological sensations as symptoms of a somatic disease. Patients with alexithymia have difficulty following recommendations and understanding treatment goals. Alexithymia has been described in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and other spondyloarthropathies, enteritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and fibromyalgia.

Last but not least, we present articles related to orthopedic procedures and bone turnover disorders, as well as methods of optimal selection of an endoprosthesis.

We hope that this selection of subjects not only mirrors well the fascinating and multifarious challenges posed by the rheumatic diseases, but will also provide you with interesting reading – until the next issue of our journal.

*Maria Maślińska*  
*Editor-in-Chief of Reumatologia*