

## From the Editors

Dear Readers,

The beginning of the new year was sad and painful for all of us. The assassination of the President of Gdansk, Paweł Adamowicz, during the finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (GOCC), which was a feast of goodness, generosity, solidarity, and unity, crushed us. We faced a momentary triumph of evil, we looked into the depths of Polish hell, we were shocked by the moment of realizing what a tragedy can be caused by hate speech, dividing Poles into a better and worse sort, into the 'real' ones and .... Well, who? False ones? Immediately in the media appeared information that "it was a madman's attack", that the murderer suffered from schizophrenia. The Polish Psychiatric Association was not indifferent to this situation. The Management Board issued a statement in which the PPA opposed to associating this tragedy with people with mental disorders. Suggesting that only mentally ill people can commit acts of violence is fundamentally false and the PPA strongly opposes to such approach, believing that "spreading contempt and hatred serves tragic motivation regardless of the mental health of the perpetrator". The entire Statement is available on the PPA website<sup>1</sup>.

In response to this situation of a sudden social security crisis at the government level, changes in criminal law, as well as in the Mental Health Protection Act, were announced. The direction of these changes assumes that mental disorders are the basic factor responsible for aggressive behavior, which in turn may lead to making psychiatry a medical discipline accountable for guaranteeing public safety. A critical opinion on this issue was expressed by prof. Janusz Heitzman, vice-president of the PPA and a head of the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, and at the same time a head of the Department of Forensic Psychiatry. It is worth quoting a short fragment of this response: "*They may violate the fundamental principles of psychiatric care in our country, imposing on it tasks incompatible with the standards, the role and social functions of psychiatric care currently in force. These tasks are impossible to implement, are scientifically and substantively unjustified*". In the current issue, we publish a Letter to Editor of prominent representatives of forensic psychiatry: prof. J.K. Gierowski and prof. J.Heitzman, issued in this matter. We hope that the legislator will take into account the voice of experts and that no laws that are harmful to our patients and that adversely affect the social reception of psychiatry will be proceeded.

Despite the shock and widespread grief, we must continue to live and work. Important events await us in 2019. First of all, in April, the European Psychiatric Association Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Direct link: [http://psychiatria.org.pl/news,tekst,357,oswiadczenie\\_zarzadu\\_glownego\\_polskiego\\_towarzystwa\\_psychiatrycznego](http://psychiatria.org.pl/news,tekst,357,oswiadczenie_zarzadu_glownego_polskiego_towarzystwa_psychiatrycznego)

is to be held in Warsaw. We hope that psychiatrists from Europe will be warmly welcomed, they will appreciate good atmosphere and will be convinced that Polish psychiatry does not diverge from the global level. We encourage you to participate in this prestigious event. In September, the General Meeting of the PPA is to be held. During this Meeting a new Management Board will be elected.

As every year, we will meet at numerous conferences and scientific symposia. However, it is not known what would be the future of many of them – according to the new regulations of INFARMA (The Employers' Union of Innovative Pharmaceutical Companies) the certificate will not be granted to the event organized “*in the city or commune which is widely or obviously, because of its reputation, considered: resort (summer, winter or all-year-round), wellness (based on the current list of health resorts of the Ministry of Health), spa, recreation, holiday, entertainment, sports or tourism destination*”. Does this mean that from the next year we will have to say goodbye to many conferences that have been part of our calendar for many years and during which we learn, broaden our knowledge, discuss, meet colleagues from all over Poland? Could this mean the end of very popular conferences in Wisla, Zakopane, Bialowieza, in Bieszczady or by the sea? It remains to be seen... An assumption of transparency and maintaining high ethical standards in the relations between physicians and the pharmaceutical industry is absolutely right, but isn't this ordinance a classic “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”?

Let these unhappy reflections not turn the Readers' attention away from the substantive content of the journal. In the current issue of *Psychiatria Polska*, as always, you will find a lot of important and interesting papers related to research tools, schizophrenia, organic disorders and forensic-psychiatric jurisdiction.

**Dominika Dudek – Editor-in-Charge**  
**Jerzy A. Sobański**  
**Katarzyna Klasa**