

From the Editors

November smells of falling leaves, ginger tea with honey and memory lights burning in countless cemeteries. It is a time when nature is preparing for winter, a time of peace and reflection. We remember our colleagues who are no longer with us, our masters and teachers, our patients whom we were unable to save. We remember and often ask ourselves the question – could we have done something more, been more present, shown more warmth, help, support?

This year we are especially thinking about the thousands of innocent victims beyond our eastern border. Mourning for the dead, we help the living – the Polish Psychiatric Association is constantly collecting funds (mBank 84 1140 2017 0000 4902 1308 5938; NZOZ Podkarpackie Centrum Zdrowia Psychicznego, 37-700 Przemyśl, Bohaterów Getta 17a, with a note: dla Ukrainy (for Ukraine)) for the needs of Ukrainian psychiatry and buys the most necessary products and equipment (currently, for example, power generators for hospitals are a basic necessity). We also remember about our young colleagues – during the last School of Youth, which took place in Katowice, a decision was made to invite a group of doctors from Ukraine to the next edition.

We remember the two previous, gloomy, pandemic Novembers. We think with sadness about those who were taken from us by the cruel plague and with gratitude about those who, despite fatigue and discouragement, and sometimes hate, stood on the so-called frontline in the fight against COVID-19. In the current issue of *Psychiatria Polska*, we will find a very interesting article on the relationship between infectious diseases and mental disorders, as well as articles devoted to stress related to the pandemic. From the very beginning, psychiatrists foresaw the enormous mental health consequences of a situation of threat and isolation [1, 2]. Attention was paid to specific populations: people with dementia [3] and people with diabetes [4], as well as to the challenges faced by healthcare professionals [5, 6]. As predicted, the psychological effects of the pandemic will stay with us much longer than the pandemic itself.

In the era of the pandemic, research on other infectious diseases, including HIV infection, has not lost its relevance. A. Zielińska-Wieniawa et al. deal with cognitive disorders in children and adolescents with congenital HIV infection. It is worth recalling another article of this research team on mental, behavioral and emotional disorders in this group of young patients [7].

The choice of articles in the current issue also covers problems related to genetic determinants of lithium efficacy (here we also refer to the excellent article by Professor Janusz Rybakowski on the current state of knowledge on this drug [8]), the mechanism of action of ketamine, mental health of 13–15-year-old youth, autism spectrum, drunkorexia, MDMA use, and deep brain stimulation. Every Reader will find something interesting.

We also hope that the new website of our journal will be very helpful for both Readers and Authors.

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