

## FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

Polish Psychiatric Association Congress is a special time that makes us think about the condition of Polish psychiatry – both its place among medical sciences and importance to society. We are often rightly indignant that the area that we represent is treated with neglect, and its poor financing is unable to provide our patients with a sufficiently high standard of care. Still present stigmatization of the mentally ill or treating psychiatry and psychiatrists with some indulgence as a “pseudo-medicine” and “pseudo-doctors” raises our opposition. However, we remember that we create the image of psychiatry and it depends on us how it will be seen: on our honesty, diligence, commitment and sound knowledge (here, the Editors hope that *Psychiatria Polska* was, is and will remain helpful in expanding and developing the knowledge). We can proudly say that psychiatry is not only biological knowledge, not just drugs, not just psychotherapy, but it is a field that requires a very wide, multicontextual look at the situation of the ill person.

For this reason, psychiatrists should show special sensitivity to the context in which we live, including the political context. Each of us has the right to occupy a position on the surrounding reality, however, with regard to the basic principles of ethics. Public use of psychiatric terminology for simplified interpretation of complex social and political phenomena or to stigmatize people of different views in this way is unacceptable. Such attitudes and statements lead to both stigmatization and depreciate psychiatry as a field of knowledge.

Psychiatry cannot remain indifferent to all sorts of legal and organizational initiatives, potentially affecting mental health of citizens. A vigorous reaction of the psychiatric community to the so-called “Act on beasts” [1] could be an example. Currently, similar emotions are raised by a bill concerning, inter alia, the so-called registry of pedophiles. In the opinion of many psychiatrists, solutions proposed there are ineffective and harmful. Therefore, in the current issue of *Psychiatria Polska* you will find a paper written by Filip Szumski et al. devoted to this problem and a letter to Editor on this problem written by prof. Maria Beisert – an eminent psychologist, sexologist and a lawyer. We hope that both of these texts will move our community and will be an audible voice in the public discussion.

Despite the various problems and difficulties, *Psychiatria Polska* strengthens its position in the world and in Europe. This is reflected in closer cooperation between the Polish Psychiatric Association and the European Psychiatric Association (EPA). Owing to the initiative of prof. Jerzy Samochowiec and prof. Przemysław Bienkowski the

Polish Psychiatric Association Editorial/Publishing Committee published the translated standards of the EPA with comments of Polish experts (Samochowicz J, Bieńkowski P (ed.). Diagnosis, treatment, organization. Selected guidelines of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA). Library of Polish Psychiatry. Krakow. 2016). Encouraging you to familiarize yourself with this extremely important book, it is worth noting that the National Specialist placed it on the list of readings that are the basis for the examination in psychiatry.

Awarding Committee composed of: prof. J. Aleksandrowicz, prof. P. Bieńkowski, prof. J. Rybakowski and prof. D. Dudek unanimously awarded the title of Friend of Psychiatria Polska to prof. J. Samochowicz. This is an award and a token of gratitude for commitment and contribution to the development and promotion of the journal. The award will be presented during the inauguration of the Congress of Polish Psychiatrists in Katowice. Congratulations to the winner!

We hope that Psychiatria Polska, this time primarily devoted to the issues of children and youth as well as eating disorders, will make the approaching summer holidays enjoyable.

**Dominika Dudek – Editor-in-Charge**  
**Jerzy Sobański – vice Editor-in-Charge**  
**Katarzyna Klasa – Managing Editor**

### **References**

1. Gierowski JK. Apel w związku z wejściem w życie Ustawy z dnia 23 października 2013 roku o postępowaniu wobec osób z zaburzeniami psychicznymi stwarzającymi zagrożenie życia, zdrowia lub wolności seksualnej innych osób oraz wynikającymi z niej dla opieki psychiatrycznej implikacjami organizacyjnymi, diagnostycznymi, terapeutycznymi i opiniodawczymi. Psychiatr. Pol. 2013; 47(6): 967–972.