

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UNDER ITS NEW LEADER

On 1 January 2000, the editorial responsibility for the *International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health* was taken over by **Professor Konrad Rydzyński, M.D., Ph.D.**, previously a member of the Editorial Board and one of the co-editors, now **Editor-in-Chief**. He succeeded at this post the late Professor Janusz A. Indulski, the founder of the Journal who had not only conceived the idea of its publication, but also devoted himself to making it gain high scientific standard, and a wide range of readers. Over the twelve years of its existence, the Journal has extended its coverage by the environmental health issues, and acquired a broad panel of international contributing editors. Under the new leadership the development of the Journal will be pursued, with the ultimate goal to provide the readers with the highest quality of scientific papers, literature reviews, and forum for exchange of experience and discussion.

Professor Konrad Rydzyński, M.D., Ph.D., graduated from the Medical University of Łódź in 1974, received his Ph.D degree from the Military Medical Academy, Łódź in 1978, and next defended there his 'habilitation' thesis in 1987, earning the degree of Associate Professor, and was subsequently conferred a scientific title of Professor in 1998. Presently, he holds the post of Director of The Nofer Institute.

The scientific career of Professor Rydzyński started in 1974. He worked as a Research Assistant, and then Assistant Professor at the Department of Histology and Embryology, Military Medical Academy, and then at the Department of Biogenic Amines, Polish Academy of Sciences (1983–87). The years 1983–85 he spent at the Department of Anatomy, and the Laboratory of Clinical Electron Microscopy, University of Bergen, Norway as a visiting professor. In 1987, Professor Rydzyński joined the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, taking the following posts: Head of the Electron Microscopy Laboratory; Assistant Professor at the Department of Toxicity Evaluation (1992–94); Head of the Department of Toxicity Evaluation and Carcinogenesis, serving at the same time as the Institute's Deputy Director for Research (1994–99). During those years he was given many responsible positions. Among others he was appointed the Executive Board Member of the Polish Toxicological Society and a member of the Toxicological Commission of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Council at the Ministry of Health (1993), a member of the Expert Group for Chemical Agents of the Polish Committee for Occupational Exposure Limits (1994), and an adviser on chemical safety to the Ministers of Health, and Environmental Protection, Forestry and Natural Resources (1995). He was entrusted with the function of National Co-ordinator of the OECD Special Programme on the Control of Chemicals: Test Guidelines Programme. In 1995,



he became a member and two years later Chairman of the Grants Section of the State Committee for Scientific Research, as well as a member of the Executive Council of EUROTOX. In 1998, he joined the Advisory Committee of Biological Effects of Low Level Exposure (USA), and the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Environmental Medicine*.

Professor Rydzyński's current research activities are focused on inhalation toxicity of xenobiotics, relationship between irritant properties and oxidative/antioxidative potential of chemicals, and alternative *in vitro* methods; most of these studies are carried out under the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Union. He is the author of over 70 publications.

In his responsibilities as the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Rydzyński will be assisted by the Deputy Editor, Professor W. Sułkowski, and a team of co-editors.

Professor Wiesław Sułkowski, M.D., Ph.D., graduated from the Medical University of Łódź in 1959, received his Ph.D. degree from the Military Medical Academy, Łódź in 1968, and next defended there his 'habilitation' thesis in 1980, earning the degree of Associate Professor, and was subsequently conferred a scientific title of Professor in 1991. Being specialised in otorhinolaryngology and audiology, over a number of years, he has headed the Occupational Otolaryngology and Audiology Division at The Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine. The academic year 1985/1986 he spent as a visiting professor at the Department of Audiology and Phoniatrics, University of Turin, Italy. He chairs the Audiological Section of the Polish Society of Otorhinolaryngologists, Head and Neck Surgeons. The Board of the European Federation of Audiological Societies, Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum, as well as the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) have granted him the membership.

Professor Sułkowski's current research interests comprise clinical studies on the effects of noise, vibration and chemical hazards (including interaction) on the inner ear; noise-induced hearing loss; presbycusis, electrophysiological tests: auditory evoked potentials, otoacoustic emissions, electronystagmography and posturography; epidemiology; diagnosis and prevention of otolaryngological diseases of occupational aetiology. He is the author of 147 original papers and a monograph entitled 'Industrial Noise Pollution and Hearing Impairment' published for the National Library of Medicine, and the National Science Foundation, Washington, DC, USA (1980).

Professor Paweł Górski, M.D., Ph.D., graduated from the Medical University of Łódź in 1973, earned his Ph.D. degree in 1968, defended his 'habilitation' thesis in 1986, receiving the degree of Associate Professor, and was subsequently conferred a scientific title of Professor in 1993. He is specialised in internal medicine and allergology. Previously, Head of The Nofer Institute's Clinical Department of Occupational Disease, now Head of the Clinic of Pneumology, Medical University of Łódź. His research work is concentrated on the role of chemokines in allergy; environmental factors and allergy, occupational asthma; and Th₁/Th₂ imbalance in allergy; mechanisms of action and application.

Professor Górski is a member of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, the European Respiratory Society, the European Academy of



Allergy and Clinical Immunology, the International Commission of Occupational Health (ICOH), and the Polish Societies of Allergy, Internal Diseases, Immunology, Occupational Medicine and Pneumology.

Professor Marek Jakubowski, M.Ph., Ph.D., graduated from the Medical University of Łódź (Department of Pharmacy) in 1962, earned his Ph.D. degree in 1968, defended his 'habilitation' thesis in 1984, taking the degree of Associate Professor, and was subsequently conferred a scientific title of Professor in 1992. He joined The Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in 1962. Between 1971–82, he headed the Laboratory of Toxicological Chemistry, in 1982–91, the Department of Toxic Substance Metabolism, and from 1991, the Department of Chemical and Dust Hazards. Meantime he has been entrusted with the function of Scientific Secretary. In 1969–70, he attended a postdoctoral fellowship in SUNY, Buffalo, USA.

Professor Jakubowski is the Board or ordinary member of a number of international and domestic scientific associations, and organisations, including the International Commission on Occupational Health – ICOH (Scientific Committee for Occupational Toxicology), the Commission on Polish Occupational Exposure Levels, the Polish Society of Toxicology (vice-president), and the Polish Society of Occupational Medicine. He has also been appointed Chairman of the Committee for Chemical Substances. Since 1983 he has been acting as the WHO Temporary Adviser on environmental toxicology.

His research work concentrates mostly on exposure assessment and early health effects of occupational and environmental exposure to heavy metals (lead, cadmium, arsenic or manganese), and biological monitoring of exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. He is the author or co-author of more than 70 scientific publications.

Professor Jan Stetkiewicz, M.D., Ph.D., graduated from the Medical University of Łódź in 1966, earned his Ph.D. degree in 1980, defended his 'habilitation' thesis in 1992, taking the degree of Associate Professor. Specialised in general pathology he has been appointed Head of the Department of Pathomorphology at The Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine. A number of scientific societies have granted him membership, among them the Polish Society of Pathologists and the Polish Toxicological Society.

Majority of his research work is devoted to neuropathology, including electrophysiology and electron microscopy of the central and peripheral nervous system; fibrogenic and carcinogenic properties of natural and man-made mineral fibres; fibrogenic properties of silica dust of different origin; human general pathology and occupational pathology, including toxicology. He is currently most interested in the role of experimental pathology in the evaluation of inhalation toxicity of aromatic hydrocarbons; and carcinogenicity of chemicals and man-made ceramic fibres. He is the author of 65 scientific publications.

Professor Neonila Szeszenia-Dąbrowska, M.D., Ph.D., graduated from the Medical University of Łódź in 1964, earned his Ph.D. degree in 1972, defended her 'habilitation' thesis in 1987, receiving a degree of Associate Professor, and was subsequently conferred a scientific title of Professor. At the



present time, she is heading the Department of Environmental Epidemiology at The Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine. Her research activities are focused on the evaluation of cancer risk from exposure to occupational and environmental carcinogens; cancer risk among workers employed in different branches of industry (rubber, pulp and paper, lead smelter, asbestos). She has been involved in the implementation of the INCO-Copernicus projects on 'Occupation, environment and lung cancer in Central and Eastern Europe', in the capacity as the principal investigator in the study area of Łódź, 1999–2002, and 'Genetic infectious and lifestyle factors behind two increasing cancers in Central Europe', both projects being co-ordinated by IARC, Lyon.

Professor Szeszenia-Dąbrowska is a member of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, the International Society of Exposure Analysis, the European School of Oncology, Alumni Club, and the Global Environmental Epidemiology Network WHO/HQ.

She is the author of more than 100 scientific publications on health care organisation, epidemiology of occupational diseases and analysis of health hazards in the work environment, assessment of cancer risk from occupational and environmental exposure to proven and suspected carcinogens.

Professor Stanisław Tarkowski, M.Sc., Ph.D., graduated in biochemistry in 1960, earned his Ph.D. degree in 1967, defended his 'habilitation' thesis in 1980, receiving a degree of Associate Professor, and was subsequently conferred a scientific title of Professor. Presently, he is heading the Department of Environmental Health Hazards at The Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine.

During the years 1981–95, Professor Tarkowski worked at the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark, serving as director of its Department of Environmental Health for nine years. He is a co-author of the European Charter on Environmental Health adopted by the First European Conference on Environment and Health, held in Frankfurt-am-Main in 1989. He has been given many responsible positions. Among others he is a member of the WHO Scientific Committee for Toxic Oil Syndrome, and the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH). In 1994–95, he was entrusted with the function of Secretary of the European Committee for Environmental Health. His research work is concentrated on environmental health, environmental health hazards and risk assessment, and environmental toxicology. He is the author of 45 scientific publications.

