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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

What prompted me to write an editorial for the first time since 2005 was Prof. Andrzej Ziemia's Letter to the Editor. While breaking all our editorial rules, the Letter appeared at the beginning of the issue. Firstly because it departed in its content from any other received letters, and secondly, because it was meant to attract our readers attention. Frankly speaking, I didn't realize that the activity of *Medicina Sportiva* publishing house was so significant! It's pleasant to acknowledge that and better now than never!

Allow me to share with you some reflection on why empires collapse. In its prime, the quarterly magazine, "Medicina Sportiva" was delivered free of charge to around 3 000 subscribers. Currently, as we all know, Polish scientific periodicals are going downhill. The famous Impact Factor (IF), has taken over Polish scientific scene and plenty of authors publish their papers in English journals. The parametrization is meant to be beneficial for science and it should primarily help towards evaluation and granting funds for universities and their researchers. It is a great assumption but... 'there's the rub' and one of the reasons for the following suspension of *Medicina Sportiva* magazine. First, at the turn of the century the supplements for *Medicina Sportiva* died because they no longer mattered as academic achievements. Next, due to its Polish origin and Polish language editions, *Medicina Sportiva Supplement* also ceased to be counted. That is the reason why the English version was published for 4 years (2000–2003), alongside the Polish version of *Medicina Sportiva*: <http://www.medicinasportiva.pl/new/index.php?path=streszczenia/polonica>.

At that time, an attempt to receive IF failed. The company that applied for it on our behalf never disclosed the reason why. Afterwards, *Medicina Sportiva* was published online, only in English. For the next 11 years, the online version of our journal didn't get to the Philadelphia list. We faced yet another mysterious reason for the failure.

On the other hand, in Poland, within the further evaluation, our journal gained higher and higher scores (8 points in 2012), and the highest score of 12 points of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW) in 2015. Unfortunately, by that time *Medicina Sportiva* had been temporarily suspended, as its Editor-in-Chief unexpectedly resigned on January 2, 2015. In post scriptum in his email to the Scientific Board of the journal he "nominated" me: "P.S. Dr. Gawronski shall be your new editor from today on."

It is true that I made an attempt to save the journal, beginning with my proposal to Prof. R. Maughan at the Symposium in Rytro in 2015 and then a proposal for Prof. A. Ziemia, who after all agreed on our cooperation. Alas, the misunderstanding with the previous edi-

tor-in-chief led to the suspension of the journal. Some of the papers were incorrectly submitted for publication in *Medicina Sportiva Practica* which was rated at 6 points MNiSW at that time. As a result, part of the authors were unsatisfied with such publishing outcomes.

The first *Medicina Sportiva Practica* was published as scientific and training material in 1999, at the conference of the same name. From 2000, for 3 years, it was sent to all of the subscribers as "a sports and medical guide for players, teachers, coaches, doctors, organizers of physical education and everyone interested in all forms of physical activity." From 2004, for 3 years, it was printed as the continuation of the Polish version of *Medicina Sportiva*, and from 2006 it was published online.

An increasing pressure to publish in IF journals led to a decreasing number of authors willing to publish their papers in *Medicina Sportiva Practica*. The last MNiSW List was entirely the fault of Jaroslaw Gowin, the former Minister (in Polish: "wina Gowina")! As it turns out, none of the Polish journals without IF was included in that list, apart from those which had applied for a governmental grant. Those who didn't could only offer 5 points for a published paper. In that year *Medicina Sportiva Practica* found itself in a dramatic situation.

Prof. K. Klukowski's support, I sent a letter to the Scientific Board asking for review articles. With some help, we managed to complete the 20th issue of *Medicina Sportiva Practica* journal, which I am extremely grateful. I wish to thank all those who devoted their precious time and submitted their articles to our journal. On that nice note, we can close down this journal. **Pyrrhic victory.**

In September 2021, 25 years passed since the first Medicina Sportiva Symposium of Polish Sports Medicine Congress, which was an impulse to issue the first edition of *Medicina Sportiva* in 1997. Such an anniversary could be a great opportunity for the organization of the one and only farewell to *Medicina Sportiva & Practica* Symposium, and potentially a new propulsion for the continuation of this journal.



Post scriptum

But Where? Kraków (science and theory) and Rytro (from theory to practice). When? That is the question!?

Despite the difficult conditions that we are facing due to COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to be able to announce *Medicina Sportiva & Practica* Symposium as soon as possible in the near future!

1997

Medicina Sportiva

2021

MEDICINA SPORTIVA		MEDICINA SPORTIVA SUPPLEMENTS	MEDICINA SPORTIVA PRACTICA	
1997 1998	 4 editions			1997 1998
1999	 4 editions	 1 edition	 1 edition	1999
2000	 4 editions	 2 editions	 4 editions	2000
2001 2003	 4 editions	 2 editions	 4 editions	2001 2003
2004	 4 editions	 2 editions	 4 editions	2004
MEDICINA SPORTIVA (on line)		MEDICINA SPORTIVA SUPPLEMENTS	MEDICINA SPORTIVA PRACTICA (on line)	
2005	 Electronic version 4 editions	 4 editions	 4 editions	2005
2006 2008	 Electronic version 4 editions	 4 editions	 Electronic version 4 editions	2006 2008
2009 2011	 Electronic version 4 editions		 Electronic version 4 editions	2009 2011
2012 2014	 Electronic version 4 editions	 1 edition	 Electronic version 4 editions	2012 2014
2015 2016		 1 edition	 Electronic version 4 editions	2015 2016
2017 2021			 Electronic version 4 editions	2017 2021
MEDICINA SPORTIVA		MEDICINA SPORTIVA SUPPLEMENTS	MEDICINA SPORTIVA PRACTICA	