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FOREWORD

I am delighted to present readers with the latest issue of „State and Society. Medicine and Public Health”. Several authors and reviewers of the papers included in this issue – including the author of these words – have written their texts while making the most of their time in quarantine recovering from COVID-19. We can therefore say that not only are we not surrendering to the epidemic, but we are also trying to take advantage of it.

In this issue readers will find several papers that are of great interest to me.

The guest editorial has been written by Pamela W. Lu, Adam C. Fields and Nelya Melnitchouk from Harvard University. The authors describe the state of the art in the diagnosis and treatment of appendix tumors.

The historical paper by Professor Iain Macintyre from Scotland should be a fascinating read for everyone as it deals with the history, still not very well known, of the Polish School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. This school, created during WWII and still active a few years after the war ended, is one of the most striking proofs of the triumph of humanity over barbarity. During the dark days of „Sonderaktion Krakau”, the murders on Lwów’s Wulka Hills and other systematic operations intended to create an „untermensch”

race – this Scottish University not only offered Polish soldiers the opportunity to study, a gesture also made by the University of Zurich, but also opened its doors to Polish academics, resulting in the creation of an independent university school whose official language was Polish. The gratitude of the Polish academic community should indeed be eternal. Therefore we are now using these pages to say a huge thank you. We are also grateful to the author for giving us the opportunity to read about this fascinating story. And the author is indeed not anonymous, as he is well known for his achievements in the field of medicine, surgery and history, the author of numerous books, including *Practical Laparoscopic Surgery for General Surgeons* and *Surgeons' lives*.

Another historical perspective takes us to the 19th century with a short biography of Karol Bogislav Reichert, a forgotten anatomist from East Prussia.

An article in the original article section by authors from India (Bhavin B. Vasavada and Hardik Patel) analyzes non-surgical complications in surgical patients, while an article by Polish authors (Ewa Iwańska et al.) analyzes prognostic factors in women with endometrial cancer. Also in this section Oleksii Potapov et al. describe an endoscopic technique for excising Zencker's diverticulum.

At the end of the issue you will find two interesting case reports about a diagnostic problem in an emergency setting and a misleading radiological finding with the surprising name *splenunculus*.

Finally, the issue concludes with a review of the monograph *Family – Health – Disease* co-authored by our assistant editor dr Małgorzata Kalemba-Drożdż and a report from a conference organized by the University of Zlin in the Czech Republic, in which Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University was actively involved.

I sincerely hope that this issue will fulfill the expectations of our readers; I encourage you all to read it and wish you all a quick recovery from the epidemic.