Dear Readers, Contributors and Friends,

At the beginning it is worth to briefly inform our Readers and Contributors on the past meeting of Editorial Board headed by the Editor-in-Chief, Professor Konrad Rydzyński.

The main concern was the rate of implementation of the Journal Development Plan (JDP) in 2012. The analysis of data for 2012 showed that the number of publications of Polish authors comprised 41.9% of all publications vs. 58.1% were publications from other countries. The original papers predominated (79.25%) in comparison with review papers (7.55%), case reports (11.31%) and short communications (1.89%).

Summing up, it was concluded that generally IJOMEH goes on in a right direction, and – according to JDP – in the nearest future, increase in yearly number of the issues, from 4 to 6 is anticipated.

This spring, in the thick issue of the Journal we may find as many as 14 articles.

Let me please summarize it shortly.

The issue is commenced with an extensive review by J. Ju rewicz et al. of epidemiological studies on exposure to widespread toxicants and children development over the last eleven years identified by carrying out a search of the PubMed, Medline, Ebsco and Toxnet databases. The results suggest that the developing nervous system is particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of low levels of exposure to such environmental contaminants as phthalates, bisphenol-A, brominated flame retardants, as well as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and cooking gas.

The series of original papers starts with the study of J. Khoubi et al. who interviewed 300 patients suffering from bladder cancer and 500 controls, in search of association of the disease with their occupations. A significantly increased risk was indicated among truck and bus drivers (OR = 11.3), skilled agricultural, forestry and metal industry workers (OR = 6.0).

The pulmonary function impairment and airway allergy among Egyptian bakers was assessed by A.E. Fahim and M. El-Prince. The results pointed out that occupational exposure to flour dust may affect respiratory irritation and sensitization as well as reduce pulmonary function tests such as FVC, FEV₁, FEV₁/FVC and FEF₂₅₋₇₅.

M. Järvelä et al. investigated inflammatory response in male workers following exposure to welding fumes and airborne particles during the working day. They found a slight, acute inflammatory effect estimated based on the increased values of leukocytes and neutrophils in blood and a decrease in the interleukin Iβ and E-selectin values.

The next paper, by S. Battakova and B. Shraimanov, concerns the impact of job conditions on the state of the afferent part of the somatosensory system. Using the somatosensory stimulated potential (SSP) in 148 miners with vertebragenic spine pain syndrome they proved that even a mild pain syndrome may cause neurophysiological changes.

S.A. Meo and K.A. Rubean studied the effect of the long-term exposure to electromagnetic field radiation (EMFR) generated by activated mobile phone on fasting blood glucose. The results obtained using Wistar Albino rats showed the increase in fasting blood glucose and serum insulin.

Another article by J. Zajdel et al. is aimed at evaluating the knowledge of medical law in the group of 328 allergists and/or pulmonologists. The questionnaire survey revealed
revealed the prevalence of percutaneous injury in 56.9% of the subjects, and needlestick hurt to be a one-third of all injuries.

M. Nasiadek et al. investigated the effect of cadmium, a widespread environmental pollutant, on the coagulation and fibrinolysis in female patients with uterine endometrial cancer or myoma. The disturbances in coagulation and fibrinolysis parameters leading to hypercoagulability were detected, hence it appears that exposure to cadmium may induce these changes.

The last but not least original paper, by R. Brodzka et al., discusses a practical application of multi-element analysis of urine by means of Dynamic Reaction Cell Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-DRC-MS). The developed method allows to determine, with low detection limits, simultaneously eleven trace elements in the urine.

We hope that the contents of this issue will prove interesting to our Readers.

Prof. Wiesław J. Sułkowski
on behalf of the Editorial Board