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ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Disorders of the male reproductive system relate to people of different ages and in most cases lead to infertility, which has already acquired a rank of a disease associated with the progress of civilization. The most frequently identified irregularities are hypogonadism, sexual dysfunction, genital malformations, testicular or prostate cancer. Due to the specific and increasingly polluted anthropogenic environment they concern mainly developed societies, including Poland, and are an important and growing medical, social, demographic and public health problem. A science that deals with the physiology and with disorders of the male reproductive system in terms of the basic and clinical science is andrology. As this is a young field of science, until recently an unsatisfactory state of knowledge limited the possibilities of the diagnostics and treatment of the disorders of the male reproductive system. However, in recent years there has been a very dynamic development of andrology, especially in the molecular aspect, due to the introduction of new methods of research in the field of biochemistry, biology and molecular genetics. Andrology is becoming an interdisciplinary field which integrates knowledge from various medical and scientific disciplines. Information related to these issues reach doctors and interested people in our country with difficulty, because there is few publications in Polish. Lectures given during conferences also do not always fully explain the doubts concerning diagnostic and therapeutic proceedings, recommendations or proposed algorithms. Hence, the need for a journal presenting the knowledge of andrology to the doctors of various specialties, laboratory diagnosticians and representatives of the basic science. The journal „Progress in Andrology *Online*” is an initiative of the Polish Society of Andrology, which is interested in the integration of people involved in different aspects of the male reproductive system, supplement and broadening their knowledge, as well as the improvement of health care for men in our country.

The aim of the journal is: 1) to provide relevant information about the physiology and pathology of the male reproductive system, 2) the promotion of practical andrological knowledge directed to broad audiences, 3) to exchange views and opinions on issues of clinical and

experimental results, and 4) to provide information on conferences and courses on the subject of andrology.

The proposed themes of the journal are: 1) clinical andrology including etiopathogenesis, diagnostics and treatment of developmental disorders, infertility and men's aging, 2) innovative diagnostic methods, 3) experimental andrology developing on the basis of the basic sciences and 4) other interdisciplinary topics related to the field of andrology.

The journal is directed to physicians with specialty directly or indirectly related to andrology, including urologists, endocrinologists, gynecologists, pediatricians, but also to family doctors facing the increasingly common problem of couple infertility and problems of aging men. Moreover, our intention is to get the interest of laboratory diagnosticians playing an important role in keeping the correct therapeutic proceedings, based on a broad panel of tests and studies. Their implementation still requires proper and comprehensive training in andrological diagnostics, including seminological one.

We hope that our magazine will also raise the interest of biologists dealing with the functions of the male reproductive system in the framework of basic sciences, as well as veterinarians and others who will find information expanding their knowledge and shaping opinion in the range of broad sciences of andrology. We encourage you to publish original papers, case reports and short announcements, as well as review papers, worked out in the concentrated, didactic and accessible form. In these articles authors should present the current state of the global knowledge as well as their own opinions. We want the journal to act as an informer and a guide in the field of andrology and become a forum for discussion. In addition, we invite you to publish articles that are translations of publications appearing in the English language, which present significant progress in andrology.

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