



## Table of Contents

<b>Prof. Zbigniew Szawarski</b>		SPEAKING IN THE LANGUAGE OF RISK .....	4
<b>Prof. Teresa Jackowska, MD, PhD</b>		SCHEDULES OF PREVENTION .....	10
<b>Prof. Lidia B. Brydak</b>		INFLUENZA – A MASTER OF METAMORPHOSIS .....	14
<b>Dr. Iwona Paradowska-Stankiewicz</b>		UNDER SPECIAL SCRUTINY .....	18
<b>Asst. Prof. Aneta Nitsch-Osuch, MD, PhD</b>		FEAR, REJECTION, AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES .....	21
<b>Dep. Min. Jarosław Pinkas, MD, PhD</b>		A WEB OF HYSTERIA AND IGNORANCE .....	24
<b>PAS Position Statement</b>		ON PREVENTIVE VACCINATIONS .....	26



The Magazine  
of the Polish Academy  
of Sciences  
special edition 1(2)/2016  
ISSN 1733–8662  
2100 copies printed

#### PUBLISHER:

© Polish Academy of Sciences

Office for Popularizing  
and Promoting Science

pl. Defilad 1,  
00-901 Warsaw, Poland

e-mail: [academia@pan.pl](mailto:academia@pan.pl)  
[academia.prenumerata@pan.pl](mailto:academia.prenumerata@pan.pl)  
[www.scienceonline.pl](http://www.scienceonline.pl)

#### EDITORIAL STAFF:

**Jan Strelau**  
Honorary  
Editor-in-Chief

**Anna Zawadzka**  
Editor-in-Chief  
& Humanities

**Katarzyna Czarnecka**  
Deputy Editor  
& Managing Editor

**Agnieszka Kloch**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Agnieszka Pollo**  
Exact Sciences

**Jolanta Iwańczuk**  
Earth Sciences

**Daniel Sax**  
Editor,  
English-Language Version

**Andrzej Figatowski**  
layout design

**D. Sax, C. Stupnicka, A. Król**  
Translation

#### SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL:

**Jerzy Duszyński**  
Chairman

**Edward Nęcka**  
**Grażyna Borkowska**  
**Leszek Kaczmarek**  
**Roman Micnas**  
**Lucjan Pawłowski**  
**Witold Rużyłło**  
**Henryk Szymczak**

Printed by WDN PAN Wrocław



## A Word of Introduction

On 16 June 2016, the General Assembly of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS) – the most authoritative group of scientists in Poland, consisting of members of the Academy itself, the directors of the PAS institutes, and the chairmen of the PAS scientific committees – unanimously adopted a position statement on the issue of protective

vaccination. The document strongly recommends vaccination, in the case of both obligatory and recommended vaccines. It also points out the harmful consequences of the work of anti-vaccination movements – movements which cite erroneous scientific publications, prey upon the fears and anxieties of parents, and are often moderated by ignoramuses and conmen. At the General Assembly session, speeches delivered by some of the top authorities and specialists on health care were followed by discussion on the position statement to be adopted. Highly convincing and clear-cut arguments were presented in evidence of the fact that vaccines are some of the best-tested medical products, and that their introduction represents one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine. Vaccines have saved the lives of millions of people and liberated us from many dangerous and deadly diseases. Vaccination refusals may lead those illnesses to reappear in the future. We should therefore all be working in concert to ensure that does not happen, for the sake of the healthy future of our children and grandchildren – a future free of dangerous infectious diseases.

JERZY DUSZYŃSKI

*PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES*

Jakub Ostałowski (2)