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

PUBLISHER:

© Polish Academy of Sciences
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and Promoting Science
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00-901 Warsaw, Poland
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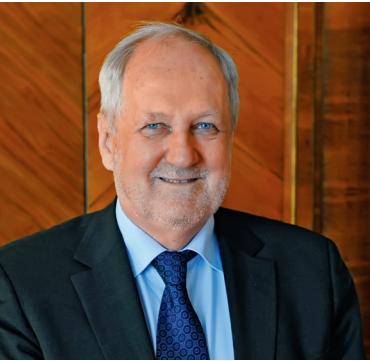
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A Word of Introduction



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
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