

# Preface



Dear Readers!

With the arrival of spring, we present to you the first issue of the quarterly *Family Medicine and Primary Care Review* in 2024. As always, we strive to ensure that the articles published in the quarterly have high cognitive value for all those who are interested in research in the area of primary medical care, which is organized differently in various countries. However, we can draw knowledge and inspiration from this diversity. The topics of the current issue are varied, and the articles come from different parts of the world.

I think we will all agree that in modern societies, preventive measures and detecting diseases in the earliest stages in order to treat them effectively are of particular importance.

Therefore, I encourage you to read articles devoted to screening procedures: mammography (from the perspective of European countries: J. Barbosa et al.: “Screening mammography beyond the limit recommended in a Portuguese Primary Care Center: a cross-sectional study” and A. Ciuba: “Breast cancer in Poland – the urgent need for effective prevention”) and cervical cancer screening (M. Habiburrahman et al.: “Evaluating primary care programs: a problem-solving cycle

with literature review on program evaluation for cervical cancer screening at a community health center, Jakarta, Indonesia”).

The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives in many aspects. In the current issue, you will find two articles related to this topic: C. Purnamasidhi et al.: “Epidemiological and clinical profile of COVID-19 patients with psychiatric disorders admitted to Udayana University Hospital during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic” and an article by A. Szpakow et al.: “Comparison of stress perceptions and coping strategies among students exposed to COVID-19 in countries with different approaches to anti-pandemic activities”.

We will continue to research the topic of “health after the pandemic” for many years, as M. Mihevc does in his article “Health after the pandemic: investigating risk factors for poorly controlled arterial hypertension and type 2 diabetes among elderly patients in primary care in Slovenia”.

WHO experts believe that we are currently in the inter-pandemic period, clearly indicating that another pandemic will definitely occur, and the only question we do not know the answer to is – when? I will venture to say that we are already experiencing a “pandemic”, because this phrase is used both in the context of the growing phenomenon of antibiotic resistance and obesity. How does the use of self-treatment with antibiotics in the course of infections in children look like in Pakistan? – this question is answered in the work by F. K. Hashmi et al.: “Parents’ behavior toward antibiotic self-medication in children and incidence of resistance: a cross-sectional study from Punjab, Pakistan”, and J. Żwirska et al. describe the eating habits of children in a developed country struggling with the growing rate of obese children in: “Dietary patterns of children between the ages of 6–10 years from primary schools in Lesser Poland”.

Lastly, I encourage you to read articles about vaccinations. The first one concerns vaccination against influenza in seniors using a vaccine with an increased dose of antigens, and the second concerns vaccination of pregnant women.

I wish you pleasant and useful reading, and I continue to encourage you to publish the results of your research in the quarterly *Family Medicine and Primary Care Review*.

Prof. Aneta Nitsch-Osuch, MD, PhD  
Medical University of Warsaw  
Editor-in-Chief *Family Medicine & Primary Care Review*