

## “Neuropatologia Polska”. The journal and its topics in the first decade of existence (1963–1972)

Piotr Paluchowski<sup>1\*</sup>, Jacek Gulczyński<sup>2\*</sup>, Mateusz Michalski<sup>2</sup>, Teresa Wierzba-Bobrowicz<sup>3</sup>, Dorota Sulejczak<sup>4</sup>, Ewa Iżycka-Świeszewska<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of History and Philosophy of Medical Science, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland, <sup>2</sup>Department of Pathology and Neuropathology, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland, <sup>3</sup>Department of Neuropathology, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland, <sup>4</sup>Department of Experimental Pharmacology, Mossakowski Medical Research Centre, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

\*These authors contributed equally to this study.

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### Abstract

*In this article authors would like to present the history of the “Neuropatologia Polska” journal (since 1994: “Folia Neuropathologica”) in its first decade of existence. It outlines the circumstances surrounding the creation of the journal and shows how it evolved in the first years. The vast material analysed from the consecutive issues of the journal in the years from 1963 to 1972 was subjected to statistical and content analysis. From its first year, the journal has included works of a very high substantive level and a wide range of topics. The authors presented the results of contemporary research in many areas. The “Neuropatologia Polska” journal (later “Folia Neuropathologica”) set paths for the development of neuropathology in clinical and experimental aspects. What is very important, it created a platform for international cooperation in many fields, included researchers and scientists from Western countries and foreign academic centres in difficult times. This article was created on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of creation of “Neuropatologia Polska”.*

**Key words:** history of medicine, “Folia Neuropathologica” journal, “Neuropatologia Polska” journal, neuropathology, research, history of neuropathology.

In Poland, neuropathology as a separate field of medicine emerged after World War II. In 1954, the Department of Histopathology of the Nervous System of the Polish Academy of Sciences was established, in 1959 renamed to the Department of Neuropathology. In the previous decades research in this field had been conducted most often within the neurological departments of individual medical universities. Adam Kunicki referred to this in a letter from the Editors published in the first issue of the “Neuropatologia Polska” journal: *Neuropathology developed in Poland mainly in the laboratories of Neurological Clinics and some Psychiatric Hospitals. Moreover, a major research centre in this field was the Nencki Centre of Neurobiology in*

*Warsaw. The level presented by these laboratories means that Polish neuropathology can boast significant achievements that have enriched world science [13].* He referred to the interwar period and later in the text he referred to such researchers as: Kazimierz Orzechowski, Edward Flatau, Jan Piltz, Eugeniusz Brzezicki, Stefan Borowiecki, Zygmunt Messing, Maksymilian Rose, Włodzimierz Godłowski, Leopold Jaburek and Adam Opalski [13].

The above-mentioned Department of Neuropathology was headed by the following prominent scientists: Adam Opalski (1954–1958), Adam Kunicki (1959–1962), Ewa Osetowska (1962–1967). During this period, over 250 scientific papers were published, and 23 doctors

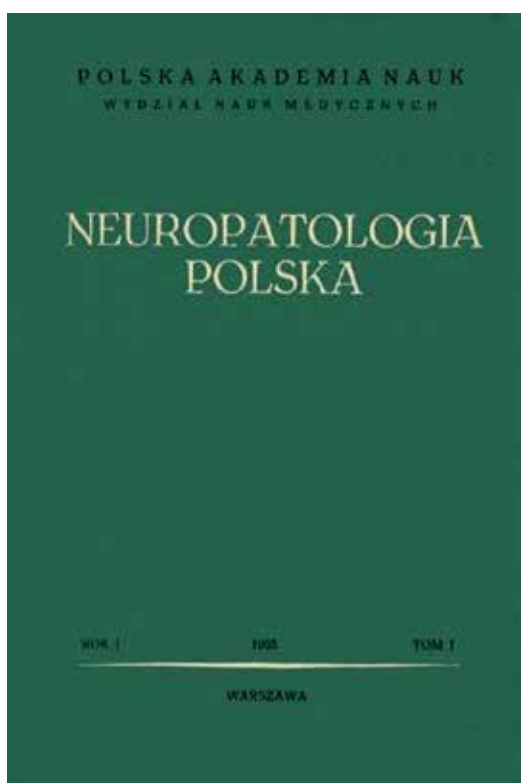
### Communicating author:

Prof. Ewa Iżycka-Świeszewska, Department of Pathology and Neuropathology, Medical University of Gdańsk, Poland, e-mail: [ewa.izycka-swieszewska@gumed.edu.pl](mailto:ewa.izycka-swieszewska@gumed.edu.pl)

and 5 assistant professors were promoted. In 1957, the Laboratory of Neurosurgical Pathology of the Polish Academy of Sciences was established in Kraków, initially subordinated to this Department, and then became an independent facility, managed by Adam Kunicki [31].

The further stage of formation of the Polish community of neuropathologists at the beginning of the 1960s was related to the establishment of the “Neuropatologia Polska” journal, the beginnings of which are the subject of this article, and soon after the establishment of the Association of Polish Neuropathologists (currently: the Polish Association of Neuropathologists – Stowarzyszenie Neuropatologów Polskich), which later ran the journal.

The first issue of “Neuropatologia Polska” was published at the end of 1963; at that time the journal was run by the Department of Neuropathology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Fig. 1). Officially, the journal was established earlier, as evidenced by the resolution of the Scientific Secretariat adopted on 3 August 1962 [13], meaning that it took more than a year to prepare the first issue which contained an introduction and 13 scientific articles. It started with a text by the outstanding Belgian neuropathologist professor Ludo van Bogaert, published in French. In the Polish-language



**Fig. 1.** Title page of the first issue of “Neuropatologia Polska” (source: [www.rcin.org.pl](http://www.rcin.org.pl)).

abstract, its title was translated as “Horizons of contemporary neuropathology” and began with the words: *The last twenty years began with contempt for neuropathology. Reducing its role to the assessment of a biopsy or the production of a standard routine protocol has become an expression of “good tone” among clinical neurologists, neurophysiologists, and biochemists. However, many of those who emphasized so strongly and contrastingly the achievements of physiopathology have forgotten how much the physiology of the end of the previous and the beginning of this century owes to the old anatomico-clinical method, which in the span of 50 years created the foundations of modern neurology. The popularity of neuropathology again increased with the updating of the issues of pathology of the extrapyramidal system, hypothalamic-encephalic system, vegetative-endocrine issues and pathological correlation of the liver-brain system. In the meantime, the French and Anglo-Saxon schools established a solid anatomico-clinical basis for a number of disease entities and topographic syndromes. The German school created cytopathological concepts; the Spanish and Italian schools made a breakthrough in the views on the role and operation of the supporting tissue of the brain* [40].

Van Bogaert concluded: *At the dawn of a new day in contemporary neuropathology, this journal is published as an expression of faith in its future and scientific possibilities* [40].

“Neuropatologia Polska” was published by the National Medical Publishing House. The places of printing of this journal were changing. Its colourful figures were printed at the Military Cartographic Works [24]. Initially, the basic circulation of the journal was 600 copies. In the next period it was slightly higher than 400 copies. Only the supplement from 1966 was published in a circulation of 910 copies.

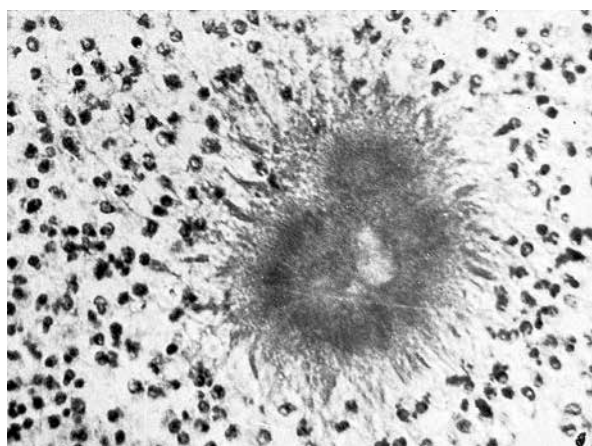
The first issue of “Neuropatologia Polska” was dedicated to Adam Opalski, the first head of the Department of Histopathology of the Polish Academy of Sciences [13], who died on 3 November 1963. Today, this neurologist is known primarily as the first who described, in 1930, the so-called Opalski cells in Wilson’s disease [30]. This name was introduced to science by his student Mirosław Mossakowski in 1966 [15]. In the period before World War II, Opalski received scholarships from the Rockefeller Foundation. After the war, he first worked at the University of Warsaw, and then joined the Medical Academy in Warsaw. A memorial about him was published in “Neuropatologia Polska” in 1965 by professor Ludo van Bogaert [41,42].

Following the establishment of the “Neuropatologia Polska” journal in 1964, the Association of Polish Neuropathologists was organised, then operating under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In 1969 it had over 50 members [31]. Its initiator was Ewa Osetowska. In March 1969, the Association organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Neuropathological Conference in Warsaw at the Staszic Palace, which was to become cyclical and take place every three years [1,28].

The journal was associated primarily with the Department of Neuropathology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, which ceased to exist on 1 July 1967, due to the establishment of the Centre for Experimental and Clinical Medicine of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The employees transferred to the Centre and worked there in two areas: neuropathology and neurochemistry [33]. On 12 September 1967, the Association of Polish Neuropathologists turned to the 6<sup>th</sup> Department of the Polish Academy of Sciences to delegate to it the responsibility for publishing “Neuropatologia Polska” [33]. The Association became the publisher in 1970, and it was then pointed out: *The change introduced is basically a formalization of the factual situation that has existed for several years* [28]. It was reported that this fact would not fundamentally change the form of the journal. Only a separate section of neurochemistry was introduced and it was promised to inform about the activities of the Association in its pages [28]. As part of this, the topics of the Association’s meetings held in 1970 were printed [39].

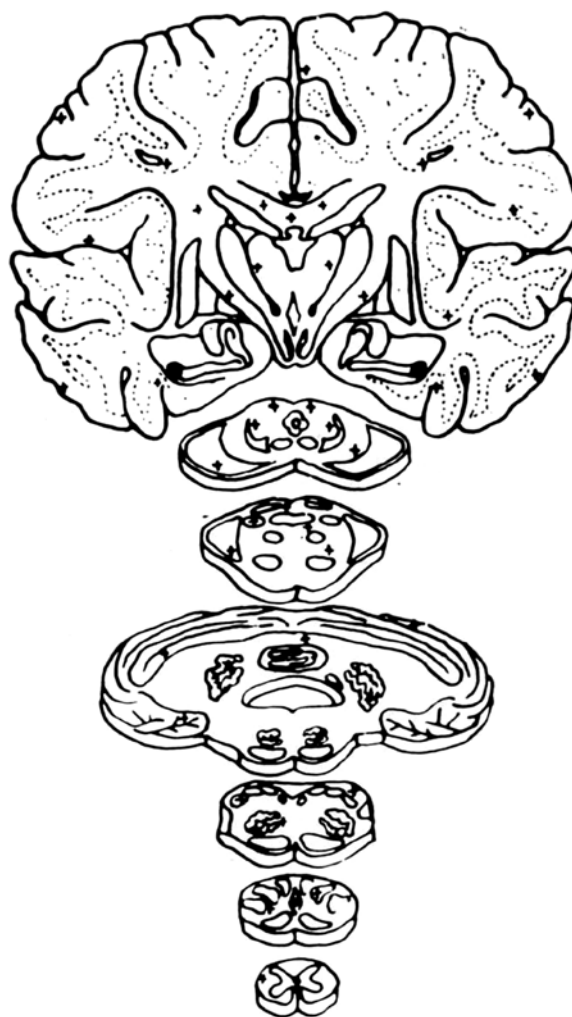
Initially, two issues of “Neuropatologia Polska” were published every year. In 1965, the formula was adopted that the journal would be a quarterly. Lists of all works published in a given year along with an alphabetical list of authors were attached to yearbooks. At the beginning of published texts, apart from their author or authors and titles, the affiliation and the person in charge of a given academic unit were also given. The articles were accompanied by photographs, schemes and tables (Figs. 2-4). The photographs (not



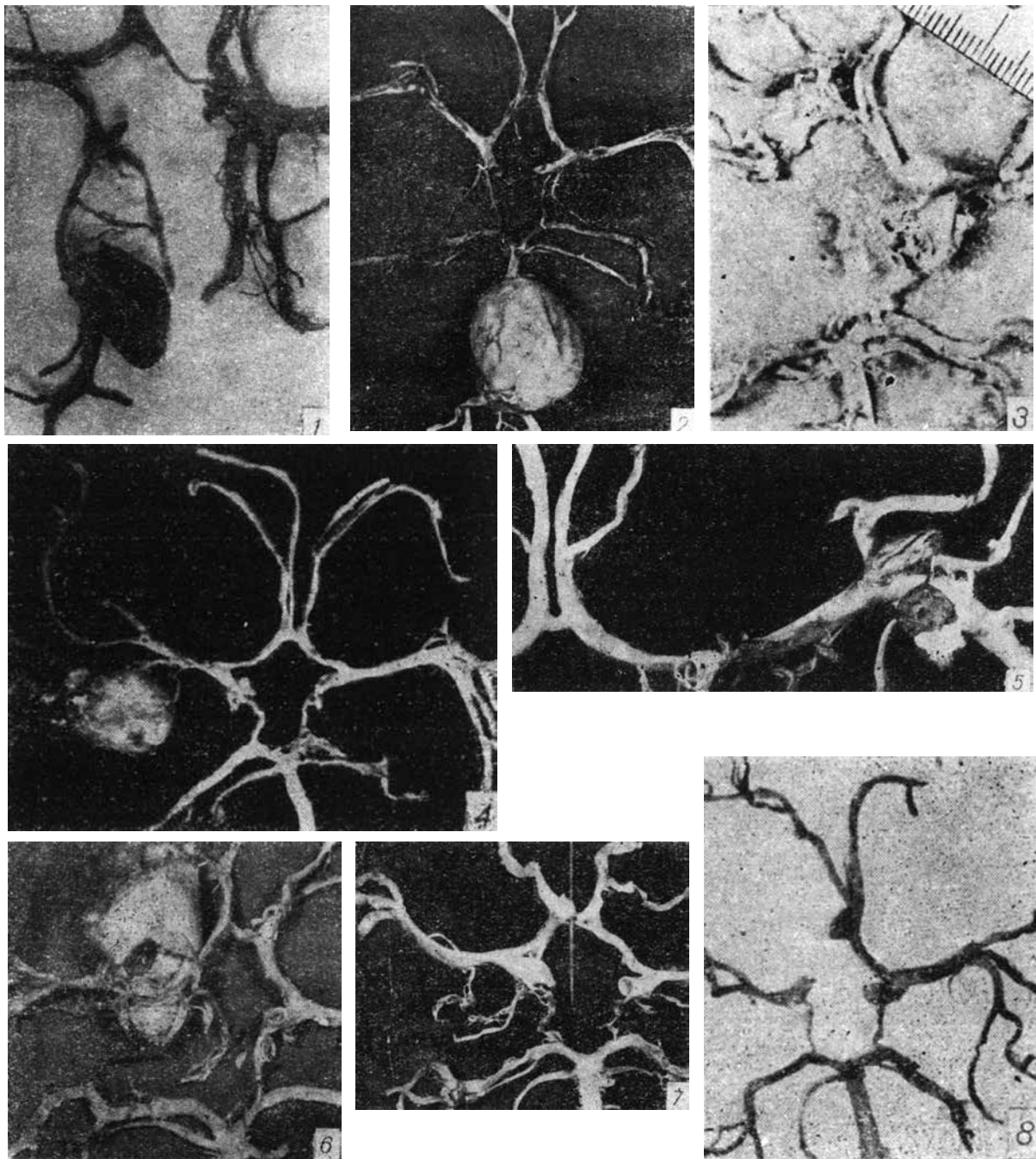
**Fig. 2.** Actinomycete mycelium amidst purulent masses (source: Archives of Prof. Ewa Osetowska).

only microscopic) were taken mainly by Ryszard Szopiński (Fig. 5), who shared his skills with a wide group of researchers, not only neuropathologists. In individual issues, photographs were mostly black and white, often printed on slightly better quality (chalk) paper. There were also diagrams and drawings, most of them in black and white (FIG). In the photographic documentation we can see currently unused magnifications (145 $\times$ , 280 $\times$ , 110 $\times$ , 44 $\times$ ). In the analysed years 1963–1972, only a few publications (4) included colour photos.

Bibliographic descriptions of the works referred to in the text were developed in the final part called



**Fig. 3.** Black and white diagram presenting distribution of the inflammatory process. Wender M. A case of encephalitis with pathological features of the spring–summer and acute disseminated encephalitis. *Neuropatologia Polska* 1966; 4 (source: Main Library, Medical University of Gdańsk).



**Fig. 4.** Page from *Neuropatologia Polska* presenting black and white photos of cerebral aneurysms. Musioł A. Zmiany anatomopatologiczne w przypadkach tętniaków mózgu. *Neuropatologia Polska* 1963; 1 (source: Main Library, Medical University of Gdańsk).

“References”. Abstracts in Russian and English were included. If the text was printed in a language other than Polish, a Polish abstract was added. Starting from the second issue, the date of sending the text and the correspondence address of the authors were placed at the end of the articles. In the third issue from 1965, reviews of scientific publications appeared for the first

time [19]. This form, however, was not adopted in the journal, although later “Ratings of submitted books” was published [34]. Starting from 1966, it was possible to subscribe to the journal [43].

The first Editorial Committee of “*Neuropatologia Polska*” included the following people: Janina Dąbrowska (Warsaw), Maria Filipowicz (Warsaw), Przemysław





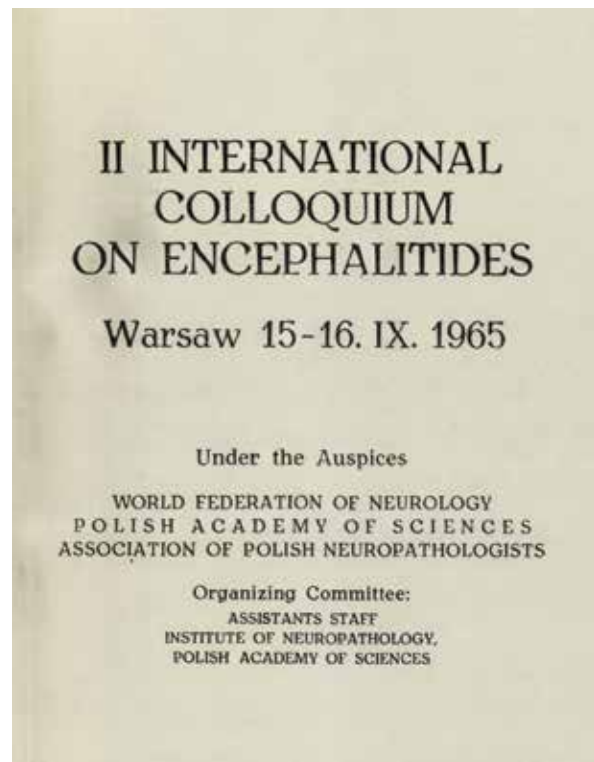
**Fig. 5.** Ryszard Szopiński (source: private archives of Prof. T. Wierzba-Bobrowicz).

Gabryel (Poznań), Janusz Groniowski (Poznań), Helena Kistelska-Nielubowiczowa (Warsaw), Janina Kowalczykowska (Kraków), Zygmunt Kuligowski (Warsaw), Stanisław Stefanko (Kraków) and Wiktor Stein (Lublin) [17]. As we know from the first issue from 1965, Janusz Groniowski left the Committee [18]. Due to organizational changes, the names of the members of the Editorial Committee were absent in the first issue of the journal from 1966. The Committee consisted then of the following persons: Andrzej Głuszczy (Łódź), Janusz Groniowski (Warsaw), Józef Kałuża (Kraków), Witold Karczewski (Warsaw), Maria Kobuszewska-Faryna (Warsaw), Jerzy Konorski (Warsaw), Zygmunt Kuligowski (Pruszków), Adam Kunicki (Kraków), Helena Nielubowiczowa (Warsaw), Ewa Osetowska (Warsaw), Zygmunt Ruszczewski (Warsaw), Stanisław Stefanko (Kraków), Lucjan Stępień (Warsaw) and Henryk Wiśniewski (Warsaw) [21]. In the combined third and fourth issues of 1966, the composition of the Committee was supplemented by Przemysław Gabryel (Poznań) [21]. His name did not appear in the later published supplement [19], but was noted in subsequent volumes [23]. Compared to the first one, the Committee was larger, as it consisted of 15 people, five of whom had previously worked in this group. It was dominated by researchers affiliated in Warsaw (nine). Kraków was represented by three people. This division is understandable considering the pace of development of this discipline at that time. In 1969, Henryk Wiśniewski, who had been living in the United States since 1966, left the Committee.

An important turning point for the journal was the change of the publisher. At the same time, the Editorial Committee was changed again, and from 1970 included: Maria Dąmbska (Warsaw), Jerzy Dymecki



**Fig. 6.** Prof. Ewa Osetowska, Mieczysław Śmiątek, Mirosław Mossakowski (source: private archives of Prof. T. Wierzba-Bobrowicz).



**Fig. 7.** Title page of the post-conference materials from the “II International Colloquium on Encephalitides” (source: [www.rcin.org.pl](http://www.rcin.org.pl)).

(Pruszków), Andrzej Głuszczy (Łódź), Janusz Groniowski (Warsaw), Adam Kunicki (Kraków), Mirosław Mossakowski (Warsaw), Ewa Osetowska (Warsaw), Stanisław Stefanko (Kraków), Mieczysław Wender (Poznań) and Irmina Zelman (Warsaw) [27]. In accordance with

the resolution of the General Meeting of Polish Neuropathologists, it included members of the Main Board of Association of Polish Neuropathologists [28]. Of the 10 people, half had previously participated in the work of the Committee. Again, in terms of numbers, people affiliated in Warsaw dominated, as there were five of them. The Editorial Committee kept continuity as in each subsequent version of this body, a large part of the members remained. Since the beginning the Committee has cooperated with foreign researchers. Initially, these were: Ludo van Bogaert (Antwerp), Nikolai Ivanovich Grashchenkow (Moscow), Igor Klatzo (Bethesda), Istvan Környey (Pecs), William H. McMenemy (London), Jerzy Olszewski (Toronto), Franz Seitelberger (Vienna) and Istvan Tariska (Budapest) [17]. Most likely due to organizational reasons, this cooperation could not be close, but what is worth mentioning is the fact that they managed to recruit outstanding researchers from outside the then Soviet Bloc. Even after these people died, their names were placed on the editorial page for many years [21].

As we can assume, most of the organizational work lied with the Editorial Office. Its first members were: Adam Kunicki (Editor), Ewa Osetowska (Deputy Editor), Mirosław Mossakowski (Secretary) and Henryk Wiśniewski (Technical Secretary) [17]. A certain turning point in the organization of the Editorial Office came in 1965 when Ewa Osetowska was chosen as the editor, assisted by the following editors: Janusz Groniowski, responsible for the Department of Ultrastructure of the CNS and Adam Kunicki, who supervised the Neuro-oncology Department. Mirosław Mossakowski and Henryk Wiśniewski continued to perform their previous functions [18]. The latter changed with the third issue of the journal in 1966, then Henryk Wiśniewski became the Secretary, and Mieczysław Śmiątek became the Technical Secretary [21]. Another change was recorded in the supplement from 1966 where Maria Dąmbaska was mentioned as the Secretary, and Władysława Smolińska as the Technical Secretary [22]. In the first, second and third issues of 1967, Mieczysław Śmiątek was listed as the Secretary and Władysława Smolińska as the Technical Secretary [23]. In 1969, the position of the Secretary was removed and only the Technical Secretary remained, Władysława Smolińska continued to hold that position [26].

Further organizational changes took place in 1970, Mirosław Mossakowski then became the Editor-in-Chief. He was assisted by the editors of: the Department of Neuropathology – Ewa Osetowska, the Department of Ultrastructure of the CNS – Janusz Groniowski, the Department of Neuro-oncology – Adam Kunicki and the Department of Neurochemistry – Mieczysław Wender. Irmina Zelman became the Editorial Secretary,

and Władysława Smolińska remained the Technical Secretary [27].

The address of the Editorial Office was initially the Warsaw Department of Neuropathology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, located at 3 Pasteur Street [17], the same address as during the operation of the Centre for Experimental and Clinical Medicine of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and was listed for the first time in the first issue of 1969 [26]. Later, another place was indicated, i.e. 3 Dworkowa Street, where the Centre was located [27].

The “Regulations for announcing works in »Neuropatologia Polska«” referred to the acceptance of works in the field of neuropathology, neuroanatomy and neurochemistry [37]. The journal also published a series of monographic articles on the history of Polish neuropathologists written by Eufemiusz Herman. It began with the figure of Leon Konrad Gliński [10], later of Albert Wojciech Adamkiewicz [9].

“Neuropatologia Polska” was also the journal in which post-conference materials were published. The second issue of the journal from 1963 contained materials presented at a conference organized by the Poznań Branch of the Polish Society of Anatomopathologists, which took place on 14-15 December 1962 at the Department of Pathological Anatomy of the Medical University of Poznań. It was devoted to neuropathology [36]. The printed texts were divided into three parts: “Vascular changes and circulatory disorders in the brain” (10 reports), “Morphology and histoclinics of tumours of the central nervous system” (10 reports) and “Various reports” (7 reports) [16]. At the end of the volume there are data on 11 papers presented at the Poznań conference, but not published therein. Some of them found their place in the next yearly of “Neuropatologia Polska” or in other journals (“Acta Neuropathologica”, “Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology”, “Polski Tygodnik Lekarski”, “Patologia Polska”).

Further post-conference materials in “Neuropatologia Polska” were presented to readers in 1966. This time they were texts from the “II International Colloquium on Encephalitides”, which took place in Warsaw on 15-16 September 1965 under the auspices of the World Federation of Neurology, Polish Academy of Sciences and Association of Polish Neuropathologists (Fig. 4). The meeting was attended by researchers from: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, East Germany, West Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Yugoslavia and Poland. The first part, devoted to European tick-borne encephalitis and Japanese encephalitis, was printed in the combined third and fourth issues. The second part was published in the supplement and concerned other viral encephalitis and atypical encephalitis. This type of issue was

then printed for the first time as part of the “Neuropatologia Polska” journal. The articles were published in English, French and German [20,32].

The discussed periodical also included materials presented during the “International Symposium on Biochemistry and Histochemistry of Myelin and Demyelination”, which took place in Poznań on 8-10 November 1968. They were published in the third issue of “Neuropatologia Polska”, divided into four parts: histochemistry of myelin and neuroglia, biochemistry of myelin and demyelination, biochemistry in experimental allergic encephalitis and biochemistry of nervous tissue [25]. The first issue of the journal after it was officially taken over by the Association consisted of texts presented during the 1<sup>st</sup> Neuropathological Conference on neoplasms [28]. In 1972, materials from the “International Symposium on Biochemistry and Histochemistry of Cerebral Tumours” were published [29].

In the years 1963–1972, 34 issues were published, including one supplement. All of that together adds up to 5,873 pages. 388 specialized texts were published, of which 146 were post-conference materials. The latter accounted for 37.63% of all articles. On average, each text was 17.24 pages long. The number of pages and articles in individual issues of the journal is presented in Table I.

From its very beginnings, attempts were made to internationalize the content of the journal and works were accepted in the following languages: Polish, Russian, English, French and German [26]. Hence, a word from the Editor, Adam Kunicki, was published in the first issue not only in Polish, but also in Russian and English [12,14]. There are also two articles in French [8,40]. During the period in question, not a single text was published in Russian. Apart from Polish, the most popular language in “Neuropatologia Polska” was English (87 articles). The number of articles in individual languages per year is presented in Table II.

The greatest number of foreign author publications occurred in 1966 and 1972. This was due to the inclusion of materials from international conferences. Taking into account the period in question, attention should be paid to the considerable contacts with countries that were within the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union. Moreover, there is no particular dominance of USSR in the journal’s pages. Although most texts were published from there (30), 20 each came from Belgium and East Germany. It is worth noting at this stage of the research that in order to comment on the internationalization of the journal, it would be necessary to examine other journals in the field of medicine for the period in question. Modern times cannot be compared to times when foreign cooperation was significantly more difficult for technical and political reasons. How-

**Table I.** Number of pages and articles

Year	Issue	No. of pages	No. of articles	Comments
1963	1	240	13	
	2	328	27	Post-conference materials
1964	1	219	14	
	2	247	12	
1965	1-2	214	10	
	3	138	7	
	4	129	8	
1966	1	174	11	
	2	213	8	
	3-4	208	14	Post-conference materials
	Supplement	454	39	Post-conference materials
1967	1	179	11	
	2	157	8	
	3	117	7	
	4	157	5	
1968	1	134	7	
	2	147	6	
	3	134	10	
	4	85	3	
1969	1-2	244	9	
	3	192	22	Post-conference materials
	4	55	1	
1970	1	172	10	Post-conference materials
	2	145	10	
	3	107	9	
	4	133	10	
1971	1	130	8	
	2	121	10	
	3	104	10	
	4	121	10	
1972	1	116	6	
	2	325	34	Post-conference materials
	3	118	10	
	4	116	9	

Source: “Neuropatologia Polska”, 1963–1972

ever, it seems that people associated with “Neuropatologia Polska” tried very hard to attract foreign authors.

The data on the affiliations of authors publishing in the journal in the discussed years are presented below. All authors of the texts were included, not only those

mentioned first, and double affiliations were noted. Therefore, the data in the two tables exceed the number of published articles (Tables III, IV).

Even before the preparation of the above lists, it was obvious that Polish authors would dominate the journal. After all, it was founded primarily for the scientific exchange of achievements of the Polish community. In the period 1963–1972, the Polish authors of published texts represented 16 towns. Due to the fact that the main neuropathological laboratories were located in the capital and surroundings, Warsaw was dominant. It was followed by Poznań,

Kraków and Łódź. It is also worth paying attention to smaller centres from which individual texts came, such as Międzyrzecz and Nowogard.

From its first annual issue, the journal has included works of a high substantive level and a wide range of topics, presenting the results of contemporary research. The analysis of the scientific fields, along with the number of published articles, is presented below (Table V). The table catalogues the publications based on the main topic of the article. Naturally, the topics often covered more than one, hence some of them are catalogued in several columns. The publications were often based on extensive sectional human material. Due to the clinical practice at that time, most patients who died in the wards were autopsied, which allowed abundant autopsy material to be collected. For example, in the years 1961–1965, 563 brains were collected from the Neurological Department of the Grochowski Hospital (80-bed unit). This enabled the building of large series of neuropathological cases in a relatively short period of time. At that time, relatively few articles were based on purely postoperative material (e.g. by Papierz and Alwasiak) [4,35].

The journal published reviews and original works, case reports, and experimental works on animals and tissue cultures. Shortened doctoral theses were also printed (e.g. by Mossakowski, Borowska-Lehman, Kraśnicka) [6,11]. The topics of the manuscripts included clinical and autopsy correlations, epidemiology, detailed morphological and structural analyses, and research on the pathogenesis of neuropathological processes – risk factors and influencing factors. Most studies were car-

**Table II.** Number of articles by language

Year	Number of articles			
	in Polish	in English	in French	in German
1963	38	0	2	0
1964	22	1	3	0
1965	21	3	1	0
1966	16	34	17	5
1967	27	2	1	1
1968	25	0	1	0
1969	30	2	0	0
1970	36	2	1	0
1971	30	6	2	0
1972	20	37	1	1
Total	265	87	29	7

Source: "Neuropatologia Polska", 1963–1972

**Table III.** Countries of affiliation of article authors (outside Poland)

Year	Countries of affiliation of article authors (outside Poland)																		
	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Canada	Czechoslovakia	East Germany	France	Great Britain	Hungary	Italy	Izrael	Japan	The Netherlands	Romania	Sweden	USA	USSR	West Germany	Yugoslavia
1963	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1964	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1965	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1966	6	15	2	0	12	0	6	5	6	0	1	13	1	12	0	0	1	4	2
1967	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1969	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	0
1970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
1972	0	0	9	0	3	12	1	1	7	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	13	10	0
Total	6	20	11	2	16	20	11	14	13	16	1	13	1	13	1	1	30	16	2

Source: "Neuropatologia Polska", 1963–1972



**Table IV.** Place of affiliation of Polish authors of articles

Year	Place of affiliation of Polish authors of articles																
	Białystok	Bydgoszcz	Gdańsk	Katowice	Kraków	Lublin	Łódź	Międzyrzecz	Nowogard	Poznań	Pruszków	Radom	Szczecin	Warsaw	Wrocław	Zabrze	No affiliation
1963	5	6	0	0	8	3	1	0	1	8	2	0	3	29	0	1	1
1964	0	1	3	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	27	0	1	0
1965	1	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0
1966	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	7	0	3	33	0	0	0
1967	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	39	1	0	0
1968	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	38	0	0	0
1969	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
1970	0	0	3	0	2	2	10	0	0	4	2	0	7	44	0	0	0
1971	4	0	0	3	5	4	2	0	0	6	8	0	4	54	1	0	0
1972	2	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	44	4	0	0
Total	12	7	7	6	37	13	23	1	1	42	22	2	18	356	6	2	1

Source: “Neuropatologia Polska”, 1963–1972

**Table V.** Article topics

Year	Article topics																										
	Anatomy and histology of the CNS	Bacterial inflammations	Changes in the course of diseases of other organs	Congenital defects	Demyelinating diseases	Degenerative diseases	Developmental neuropathology	Diseases of peripheral nerves	Diseases of the sense organs	Effect of treatment on the CNS	Endogenous encephalopathies	Exogenous encephalopathies	Genetic and metabolic diseases	Histopathological diagnosis	Malignancies of CNS	Muscle diseases	Neurochemistry	Neurotraumatology	Other inflammations	Paediatric neuropathology	Toxications	Varia and memories	Vascular and vasogenic diseases	Viral inflammations			
1963	2	1	6	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	2	2	9	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	7	2		
1964	1	0	2	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	5	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	8	1			
1965	5	0	1	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	0	4	2	1	4	4	2			
1966	2	1	7	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	3	1	2	3	2	1	3	1	25	0	0	2	5	26			
1967	6	3	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	3	2	4	0	4	1	5	2			
1968	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	1	4	2	0	1	0	2	3	4	4			
1969	12	0	0	2	6	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	12	1	1	0	0	1	3	3			
1970	2	0	5	4	0	3	3	0	0	2	0	1	6	2	10	3	2	1	0	0	1	3	3	0			
1971	6	2	5	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	1	9	0	1	0	1	0	4	1			
1972	21	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	24	0	24	0	1	0	1	2	6	0			
Total	58	7	32	13	12	12	26	1	2	8	8	7	26	20	63	11	56	7	38	3	13	20	49	41			

Source: “Neuropatologia Polska”, 1963–1972

ried out by analysis in light, phase contrast, electron and fluorescence microscopes. Studies in the field of neurochemistry constituted a significant part of some issues of the journal. The scientific areas also included genetic, isotope and immunological research, as well as physico-chemical research on human and experimental material, as well as mathematical analyses. The views or concepts of diseases and pathomechanisms were also presented.

The studies usually contained detailed data on the clinical course, along with the results of additional tests, including radiological images. The macroscopic images were described in detail and broad microscopic characterizations were performed along with topographic analysis of the pathological changes. Depending on the scientific centre and its autopsy practice, hemispherical sections or targeted sections were used. The paraffin technique predominated, and frozen specimens were rarely used. Typically, a wide panel of stains on many sections were applied: HE, Cresyl, Spielmeyer, Holzer, Sudan, van Gieson, Masson, Hortega and many others.

Some articles mentioned research financing – e.g. Ewa Osetowska's team benefited from, among other sources, from the US Public Health Program funds (various topics over the years). Single articles reported French funding or funding from NINDS Bethesda, USA and Multiple Sclerosis Society, UK. Certain works were presented by international teams, for example with the participation of researchers from Germany, Austria or the United Kingdom. Some of the articles were written as a result of presentations at foreign conferences (including results presented by colleagues from other countries due to the inability of Polish researchers (non-authors) to participate).

Due to methodological limitations, but also the scope of possible additional tests (e.g. lack of molecular tests), the results were interpreted in accordance with the level of knowledge and classification of changes at that time. Articles on human brain tumours are difficult to analyse or evaluate because they are outdated compared to current classifications.

The articles printed in "Neuropatologia Polska" presented a modern approach considering the time they were written, covering current topics, but also setting a path for research that would be continued in the future. Analysing the issues from the decade 1963–1972, we selected just a few outstanding items from the field of clinical and experimental neuropathology – those that influenced the development of this field and still constitute a source of knowledge and inspiration. For better understanding of their content, the titles are given in English. Additional information is provided in square brackets. Analysing the names of the authors we can quickly find most prolific ones. The name of Ewa Osetowska is mentioned 43 times, as the direc-

tor of the research team but also as the author – 29 published papers. Mossakowski published 22 papers, Dąbska – 21 papers. Others like Kraśnicka – 17, Zelman and Szydłowska – 15 papers, Wiśniewski – 11. The list is long.

We report a few chosen original works on vascular pathology:

1. Dąbska M, Iwanowski L, Kraśnicka Z, Majdecki T, Mandybur T, Mossakowski MJ, Wiśniewski H. Studies on atherosclerosis of the cerebral blood vessels. 1963; 1: 49-99 [a work analysing 600 brains from the Warsaw Department of Pathological Anatomy as part of the World Neurological Federation initiated in 1959 – a series of studies on cerebrovascular diseases].

2. Dąbska M, Kahl-Kunstetter J. Topography of Lesions of Nervous Cells in Cases of "Cardiac Arrest". 1964; 2: 225-238.

Selected original publications on CNS inflammation and demyelinating diseases:

1. Kraśnicka Z. Typical Routes of Transmission of Inflammatory Processes to the Cerebral Ventricular System (Purulent Tuberculous and Syphilitic Inflammation). 1963; 1: 17-47).

2. Kurasz S, Klimowicz L. Cerebral parasites in autopsy material. 1963; 1: 299-308.

3. Osetowska E, Wiśniewski H, Wróblewska-Mularczyk Z. Topography of tissue lesions and localization of the virus in tick-borne encephalitis. 1965; 3: 35-47.

4. Osetowska E. Morphological and topographical characterization of types of myelin damage in multiple sclerosis. 1965; 3: 259-269.

5. Kusano N, Aoyama Y, Kawamura A. Jr., Kawashima H. The diagnosis of Japanese encephalitis by means of fluorescent antibody technique in autopsy cases. 1966; 4: 449-456.

6. Herout E, Vortel V, Fingerland A, Vondrackova A. Herpes simplex encephalitis. 1966; 4: 497-501.

7. Shiriaki H. Neuropathology of Systemic Lupus Erythematoses in Comparison with Rheumatic Encephalopathy. 1966; 4: 759-762.

8. Wiśniewska K. Periarteritis Nodosa in the Nervous System. 1968; 6: 209-218.

9. Leibowitz S. Cerebral vascular permeability in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis. 1969; 7: 303-309.

Chosen articles on developmental neuropathology:

1. Dąbska M. Necrosis and Inflammation in the Brains of Foetuses and Neonates. 1967; 5: 1-34.

2. Borowska-Lehman J. Hydranencephaly and internal hydrocephalus in the light of comparative pathomorphological studies. 1967; 5: 199-225.

3. Dąbska M, Liebhardt M, Ferens Z, Marciniak M. Lesions of nervous system and after-birth infection and changes in the lungs of newborn infants. 1971; 9: 297-305. [140 newborn cases, 50 with parallel placental evaluation]

4. Dąbbska M, Szamborski J, Troszyński M. Peri- and intraventricular haemorrhages in premature infants. 1971; 9: 71-79. [series of 55 cases]

Neurodegenerative and prion diseases:

1. Zelman IB. Present Views on Hallervorden-Spatz Disease. 1964; 2: 125-140.

2. Papierz W. Microscopic changes in the brain in cases clinically diagnosed as schizophrenia. 1970; 8: 321-329. [40 psychiatric patients cases]

3. Tarnowska-Dziduszko E, Filipowicz M. Morphological changes in central nervous system in the course of the Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease. 1971; 9: 343-351. [detailed tables]

Encephalopathies [short series of case reports also included here]:

1. Osetowska E. Carbon Monoxide Encephalopathy. 1964; 2: 159-172.

2. Mossakowski MJ, Pathomorphology and Histochemistry of Spontaneous and Experimental Encephalopathy of Hepatic Origin. 1966; 4: 231-304. [includes a comprehensive table with HC reactions and morphological changes]

3. Mossakowski MJ, Kraśnicka Z, Renkawek K. The importance of research on Opalski cells for understanding the pathogenesis of central nervous system damage in hepatocerebral diseases. 1972; 10: 385-392.

Experimental and clinical research on brain tumours:

1. Kunicki A, Stefanicka-Wiechowa A. Remarks on the mode of spread of cerebral gliomas. 1965; 3: 373-380. [23 cases]

2. Alwasiak J. Microscopic appearance of recurrence and incompletely removed supratentorial gliomas. 1970; 8: 37-78. [1300 brain tumours]

3. Kroh H. Morphological and enzymatic characteristics of experimental cerebral tumours in mice. 1972; 10: 235-239.

4. Kałuża J, Kowalska Z. Investigations on endoneurial transformation of gliomas in long-term culture and subcultures in vitro. 1972; 10: 435-446.

Nerve and muscle diseases:

1. Jędrzejewska H, Fidzińska, A. Changes in the Muscle Spindles in Neuromuscular Diseases. 1966; 4: 217-230. [detailed brain-blood-barrier analyses, several histochemical methods and various qualitative and methodological approaches]

2. Jędrzejewska-Kuśkowska H. Histological studies on intramuscular motor nerve fibres and their endings in Muscular Dystrophy. 1968; 6: 359-402.

Other works:

1. Dąbbska M. Inflammatory Changes in the Brain after Surgical Operations. 1963; 1: 49-76.

2. Kałuża J. The Dynamics of Morphological Alterations in the Brain Following Mechanical Trauma. 1963; 1: 123-164.

3. Wiśniewski H. Studies on the permeability of the blood-brain, blood-cerebrospinal fluid and cerebrospinal fluid-brain barriers for proteins under physiological conditions and of the blood-brain barrier for albumins in cerebral oedema. 1965; 3: 1-33.

4. Kraśnicka Z, Renkawek K. The morphology and histochemistry of microglia in tissue culture studied under normal and pathological conditions. 1969; 7: 73-90.

The articles in the journal that described also rare diseases with neuropathological analyses can to this day be a source of knowledge and help in the interpretation of images: maple syrup urine disease (MSUD), intoxications (e.g. after taking imipramine), developmental disorders, metabolic, infectious, unusual vascular and vasogenic diseases, and others. Interestingly, over the decade, several cases of post-vaccination complications and post-infectious encephalitis, e.g. after influenza, were also described.

In addition to substantive texts, “Neuropatologia Polska” published various types of reports, usually related to the organization of the world of science. For example, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Zygmunt Albert, invited people to take part in the 4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Session on Cancer Biology, which was to be held on 14-15 May 1965 in Wrocław [3]. It was also announced who had received the awards of the Polish Society of Neurologists [5], what the conditions for receiving the award of the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences are [38], and readers were encouraged to read the materials of the “Vle Congres International de Cybernetique” organized in Belgium on 7-11 September 1970 [7].

In 1968, the journal began publishing a chronicle covering international and Polish events in the field of neuropathology. For example, it reported on the meetings held in Copenhagen on 19-21 May 1967: preparatory to the Congress of neuropathologists scheduled for 1969, constituting the International Society of Neuropathology, and the Problem-Commission of Neuropathology, World Federation of Neurology [33]. The program of the Copenhagen congress was published in the journal [2]. In the published chronicles, a lot of information concerned Polish scientific life related to neuropathology. For example, based on them we know that when the International Society of Neuropathology was established, the Scientific Secretariat of the Polish Academy of Sciences on 13 June 1967, agreed to the Association of Polish Neuropathologists joining this organization, which lasts up today [33].

## Final remarks

Launched in 1963, “Neuropatologia Polska” was the third specialist journal in the world that dealt with

issues related to the pathology of the nervous system. Only the “Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology” and “Acta Neuropathologica” were published earlier [27]. This proves the exceptionality of the Polish neuropathological community in that difficult period. The consequences of World War II were still felt – not only the destruction of infrastructure, but also the death of many outstanding specialists, made worse by the fact that the education system had not been working for several years. After 1945, attempts were made to gradually fill staff and organizational gaps, although the political situation at that time was not conducive to free scientific activity and international contacts were much more difficult. However, when the post-war Polish state and the new scientific world established themselves, increasingly specialized structures and opportunities for information exchange began to emerge in the form of occasional and cyclical conferences, as well as journals, “Neuropatologia Polska”. After several years of publication, the new publishing initiative “Neuropatologia Polska” was described as follows: *For the last five years, it has experienced a luxuriant flowering together with the entire neuropathological community, recording on its pages the changes and development of this environment, and has become its actual organ. Lively, carefully and interestingly edited by Prof. Ewa Osetowska, MD, PhD, it has gained an increasingly wider circle of collaborators and recipients both in Poland and abroad* [27].

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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