



Polish School of Medicine Memorial Fund Newsletter

Vol.22.No 1

Winter 2022

As we enter December, the days seem to fly past even more quickly, and Christmas and a New Year will be upon us in a twinkling of an eye. Loanhead, south of Edinburgh where I stay, looks wonderful as snow covers the hills and our small nature reserve is a winter wonderland. Having ventured out very early and enjoyed the quiet, I now have the perfect excuse for sitting down with a hot drink and composing this newsletter. I trust the positive news gives you winter cheer!

This update of what has been happening on the Polish School of Medicine Scholarship front also includes information about the Bóloz-Kulesza Trust Fund and the Dr James and Bożena Bain Memorial Trust Fund Scholarship programmes.

1. Scholarships update – short courses.

A. Polish School of Medicine Scholarship programme.

i. CT Cardiac level 2 courses

We were pleased that Scholarship activity did not grind to a total halt during Covid-19 restrictions. Whilst several popular Edinburgh-based short courses such as the 2020 and 2021 Edinburgh Summer School in Clinical Education were cancelled, others such as the 5-day CT Cardiac courses, continued to be offered online and, more recently, on a face-to-face basis in Edinburgh.

Both formats proved popular. News of the outstanding quality of these courses has spread, and several potential applicants have already been in touch with me about course dates for 2023. **The first course for which a limited number of scholarships are available will take place at the end of May and into the first few days of June 2023.**

For further information, see <https://www.ct-academy.org/home>.

Please encourage any suitably experienced doctors in training to get in touch with me, (email: PSMscourse@ed.ac.uk) if they are interested in applying for a scholarship.

The scholarship will cover the course fee for those who wish to take part online. It will provide accommodation at the University's Pollock Halls campus for the duration of the course for those taking part in the face-to-face course in addition to covering the course fee.

ii. Edinburgh Summer School in Clinical Education

This Edinburgh Summer School returned this summer as a 3-day event. Four Polish scholars (Drs Adrianna Spalek and Katarzyna Wyskida from the Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, Katarzyna Paczkowska from Wrocław and Letycja Róg from The Medical University of Warsaw). Although their levels of teaching experience varied considerably, they all found the course very helpful.

Planning is already underway for running a slightly longer course in August 2023. The course is likely to run from **Monday 14th August through to lunchtime on Friday 18th August 2023**. Whilst the number of available scholarships will be limited, enquiries are welcome even at this early date (email: PSMscourse@ed.ac.uk).

iii. Distance learning Masters Programme (MSc) scholars

Thankfully, scholars who had already embarked on distance learning Masters Courses were able to continue their studies, albeit with considerably more effort due to the demands made on them during the worst of the **Covid -19** pandemic.

Two of these students graduated in person in the McEwan Hall here in Edinburgh on Saturday 26th November 2022:

Drs Stefan Anzelewicz from Gdańsk Medical University graduated with a Masters in Paediatric Emergency Medicine with Distinction.

and

Katarzyna Naylor from Lublin Medical University graduated with an MSc in Clinical Education.

We had one Edinburgh based scholar this year (2021/22 academic year) - **Dr Agnieszka Basiukajc**, a neonatologist in training from Poznań. Dr Basiukajc graduated in November with a Masters in Reproductive Sciences by research. Since returning home, Dr Basiukajc has completed her specialty training and is now a fully-fledged consultant.

Dr Anzelewicz's medical university is funding a short visit for him to return to Edinburgh in 2023 and undertake a short internship focusing on teaching in paediatric emergency medicine. He will also meet consultants in Paediatric Emergency Medicine and in the Department of Neurosurgery in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children during his stay.

We offer our warmest congratulations to all three scholars.

iv. Research scholars

We have also been very pleased to have Dr Patrycja Mołek, a medical resident in the Department of Coronary Artery Disease in the St John Paul II Specialist Hospital in Krakow with us here in Edinburgh. Dr Mołek arrived in early September and returned home to Poland in mid- December 2022. Dr Mołek was attached to Professor David Newby's Unit in Cardiovascular Sciences. Patrycja had previously attended the October 2021 online CT Cardiac Course and approached Professor Newby regarding a possible attachment. The Polish School of Medicine Memorial Fund awarded a subsistence allowance to assist with the costs of Dr Mołek's stay in Edinburgh.

v. Current Scholars

We currently have 2 distance-learning scholars: Dominik Tattera from the Collegium Medicum of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and Dr Agnieszka Zawiejska from Poznań University of Medical Sciences. Dr Tattera is a Polish School of Medicine Memorial Fund Scholar and Dr Zawiejska's is in receipt of a Bóloz-Kulesza Trust Fund Scholarship. Dr Tattera is in his second year of the MSc in Public Health and Dr Zawiejska is also in her second year of the MSc in Epidemiology.

B. Bóloz-Kulesza Trust Fund programme

In addition to supporting one of our current distance-learning scholars, the Trust Fund supported five scholars attending Edinburgh-based and online CT Cardiac short courses in 2020 and 2021.

C. Dr James and Bożena Bain Memorial Fund Scholarship Programme

Unfortunately, it was not possible to have any external undergraduate medical elective student attachments during Covid-19 and this opportunity has only just restarted. Unfortunately, there are no vacancies for summer 2023. The number of places overall and available for foreign elective students is limited and completion for them is fierce. Interested students should contact the electives secretary at electives@ed.ac.uk as far ahead as possible.

They should also check the undergraduate website to see when applications for 2024 open. See [Medical electives programme | The University of Edinburgh](#)

2. Polish School of Medicine 80th anniversary celebrations.

Sadly, we had to cancel celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Polish School of Medicine in 2021 due to COVID. We are considering the possibility of holding a modest combined 80th anniversary celebration of the Polish Veterinary Study/ Faculty (1943-47) with a deferred celebration of that of the Polish School of Medicine. More of this in early 2023.

3. Polish School of Medicine Graduates.

These days I am more often in contact with the children and grandchildren, nieces, nephews and more distant relatives of the original graduates of the Polish School. It has been a great pleasure to correspond and, on occasion to be able to meet some of them, and to hear what became of the graduates in later life.

I *am* still in very regular contact with Dr Halina Marszałek-Lewicka who lives in London and visit her as often as possible. We greatly enjoyed spending Christmas 2022 together, and are looking forward to celebrating a traditional Wigilia again this year, rail strikes permitting!

And on this festive note, and on behalf of all the team here in Edinburgh who support the Polish School of Medicine related scholarships programmes and activities, I should like to wish you all a

Happy Christmas and a Good New Year filled with peace, joy, and happiness



Radosnych i Wesolych Świąt oraz Szczęścia w nadchodzącym Nowym Roku

życzy

Maria

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