

**Second International Conference on  
Quality Improvement in Medicine,  
Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) Center, Paris, France**

**The Role of International Collaboration in  
Improving Quality of Care  
15-16 May 2019**

After a productive and inspiring Roundtable Meeting on Quality Improvement in Medicine held at the PAN Paris Scientific Center in April 2018, the Second PAN Paris International Conference on Quality Improvement in Medicine took place on the 15 and 16 of May 2019.

The PAN Paris initiative to hold annual events focused on quality improvement in medicine has been further developed and implemented by a French-Polish team of two alumnae of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Takemi Program in International Health – **Dr. Christine C. Huttin**, a professor at the University of Aix Marseille, working closely with the French Ministry of Health and **Dr. Małgorzata Nabialczyk-Chalupowski**, a graduate of the Jagiellonian University Medical School and the Massachusetts School of Law, with credentials and work experience from the University of Cambridge, the University of Sheffield, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK, as well as academic and nonprofit organizations in the United States, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South-East Asia.

The organizational part of the meetings was expertly managed and brought to fruition by **Dr. Aneta Bassa** (in 2018) and **Dr. Magdalena Sajdak** (in 2019) in collaboration with the entire Administrative Team of the Center under the leadership of the Director of the PAN Center, **Professor Maciej Forycki**.

In addition to the Polish Academy of Sciences Scientific Center in Paris, the meeting was made possible by the generous participation and sponsorship of the British Medical Journal Research to Publication Programme, the Polish-American Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City, the French National Foundation for Management Education, the University of Nigeria, the Medical University in Lublin, and MEDYK Publishing House in Warsaw, Poland.

The 2019 Conference was one of the events of the Polish-French Year of Science, celebrated under the auspices of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of France and the Principality of Monaco, **Professor Tomasz Mlynarski**.

The meeting gathered quality improvement experts and healthcare professionals representing leading academic, corporate, and governmental agencies in France and Poland, as well as in Belgium, Great Britain, Nigeria, and the United States.

**The Keynote Speaker, Michael van den Berg, PhD**, the Policy Advisor at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Paris Bureau, specializing in health systems performance and quality of care indicators, presented the main features of OECD. OECD, an intergovernmental organization, applies economic analysis to health data and health systems in order to create comprehensive, internationally comparable databases used in innovative modeling and formulating policy advice for member countries. In the main thrust of his presentation Dr. van den Berg discussed the essential premises and accomplishments of OECD related to the health sector with a specific focus on the PaRIS (Patient-Reported Indicators Survey) Initiative. Dr. van den Berg emphasized the importance of collecting systematized Patient-Reported measurements in order to ensure the degree of quality of care expected by patients, providers, and policymakers. [www.oecd.org/health/paris.htm](http://www.oecd.org/health/paris.htm)

After the Keynote Presentation, the Conference deliberations were divided into five panels moderated throughout the day by Dr. Christine Huttin and Dr. Małgorzata Nabialczyk-Chalupowski.

**Panel One: Health Systems Policy, Politics and Publicity** moderated by Dr. Nabialczyk-Chalupowski, was specifically designed to compare the quality-related organizational challenges faced by the healthcare systems in Europe and Africa. In addition to the further remarks regarding the role of politics in shaping the national health policy paradigms delivered by the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Michael van den Berg, a lively discussion inspired by the questions and feedback from the audience was enriched by the insights presented by Dr. Krzysztof Krzystyniak, professor of toxicology and biochemistry at the Graduate School of Engineering and Health in Warsaw, Poland. Based on his extensive experience gained while working in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK, Canada, India, and West Africa, Dr. Krzystyniak elaborated on the significance of international collaboration in developing sound health policies grounded in reliable and freely accessible scientific research. Dr. Nkechi Genevieve Onyeneho, professor of Sociology and Health Law at the University of Abuja, Nigeria, discussed the challenges faced by the healthcare system in Nigeria, such as inadequate resources, reliance on unpredictable and unsustainable donor funds, provision of which is usually aligned with donor interests and not that of the recipient communities, persistent inequities and inequalities, low priority accorded to health in national resource allocation policies, and a weak, fragmented as opposed to multisectoral response to address the determinants of health.

**Panel Two: Quality in Medical Research and Publishing**, moderated by Professor Christine Huttin, was focused on exploring the importance of international collaboration in delivering accurate and timely information to healthcare professionals, patients, and policy-makers. The topic was considered from three different perspectives: that of a large international medical journal publisher, a national medical publisher, and a filmmaker.

Dr. Cat Chatfield, the Quality Improvement Editor at the British Medical Journal, a GP trained at the University of London and the University of Cambridge, explored the issue of the interface between quality improvement, research and publishing, and whether and to what extent this interface impacts everyday clinical practice. Dr. Chatfield energized the audience by bringing up staggering statistics regarding e.g. the global annual cost of medical research estimated at \$240 billion, and the fact that 85% of research is wasted when the studies are either never published or the results never translate into tangible improvements in clinical practice, and when there is a poor correlation between the findings of peer-reviewed publications and changes in health policy. <https://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/editorial-staff/cat-chatfield>

Professor Krzysztof Krzystyniak, in his other professional capacity - that of a Scientific Advisor of the MEDYK Publishing House in Warsaw, Poland, [www.medyk.com.pl](http://www.medyk.com.pl) presented the accomplishments and challenges faced by a private medical publisher of journals, books, and medical textbooks in the context of the dynamic and ever-changing political landscape at national, regional and global levels. Dr. Krzystyniak also emphasized the role of international collaboration in teaching young medical researchers the fundamentals of scientific methods and providing them with appropriate role models from the past and the present.

Cecily Tyler, Research Fellow and Instructor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Ash Center Innovation Field Lab, and the Harvard Initiative for Learning and Teaching (HILT), a journalist, documentarian, and filmmaker, discussed the role of the mass media in shaping healthcare policies and improving the quality of care at local, national, regional, and global levels. She emphasized the role of the emerging trend of an innovative approach to filmmaking involving direct narratives created by healthcare professionals and patients themselves. In this context the role of professional journalists, if any is needed, is focused on building the capacity within the medical community for storytelling, media production and other advisory functions. <https://vimeo.com/245108480>

**Panel Three: Quality in Clinical Medicine and Medical Education**, moderated by Dr. Nabialczyk-Chalupowski, was focused on exploring the factors influencing the quality of interactions between patients and providers in a clinical setting, and on the question how the importance of these interactions should be emphasized in the early stages of medical education within different medical education systems.

Etienne Minvielle, MD, PhD, Professor of Management at the French School of Public Health (EHESP) and University of Sorbonne, Director of Research at the Management of Healthcare Organizations (MOS) and Academic Advisor at the Gustave Roussy Hospital in Paris, gave a talk on performance and quality indicators in French hospitals. In his presentation, Dr. Minvielle posed a thought-provoking question whether the P4P (payment for performance) model is a paradox that needs to be addressed in the context of the prevailing shift from the volume-based payment to the value based purchasing. Dr. Minvielle emphasized that improving

the quality of healthcare delivery requires more than structural solutions. Functional innovations such as focusing on continuum of care, care coordination, the evolution of professional roles and patient engagement are necessary, as argued in detail in a book he coauthored, *The Quality Imperative*.

<https://www.amazon.com/Quality-Imperative-Measurement-Management-Healthcare/dp/1860941737>

Ngozi Idemili Aronu, PhD, an Academic Teacher and Researcher at the Department of Medical Sociology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, an expert in community and women's health, presented the results of her studies exploring technophobia and the use of medical technology by women in Enugu State, Southeastern Nigeria. The level of use of technology was found to be lower than expected, especially among younger women. Suboptimal use of health technology may be one of the factors contributing to the unsatisfactory health outcomes recorded in Nigeria at the regional and national levels. Dr. Aronu emphasized the role of international collaboration in studying the problem of technophobia within specific ethnic communities. The issues presented are discussed in more detail in Dr. Aronu's recently published book, *Technophobia and Women's Use of Health Technologies*, <https://www.amazon.com.au/Technophobia-Womens-Health-Technologies-Nigeria/dp/6139472652>

Anna Zagaja, MA, a graduate of the Catholic University of Lublin, Medical University of Lublin, and the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, an Academic Teacher at the Department of Ethics and Human Philosophy at the Medical University Lublin, currently heading the project on informed consent in mammography screening, presented the results of a study focused on the quality of informed consent in mammography screening in Poland. After outlining the historical background of the statutory and case law pertaining to informed consent, she discussed the crucial role of healthcare professionals in providing current and reliable information about risks and benefits of screening to patients, who may often base their decision-making process on commercial marketing materials instead of on evidence-based professional guidelines and recommendations.

<https://www.umlub.pl/uczelnia/struktura-organizacyjna/szczegoly,486.html>

**Panel Four: Quality at the Crossroads of Medicine and Technology** was moderated by Professor Christine Huttin, who opened the panel discussion by giving a presentation on controversies in science and the imperative to use reliable evidence in translational medicine. In her lecture, Professor Huttin discussed several examples of current scientific controversies that may lead to different predictive disease modeling paradigms and conflicting impact assessment of factors such as aging and environmental modifiers. In this context, she also highlighted the role of financial factors in the medical decision-making process. This issue is discussed in detail in her book *Economics and Medical Decision Making*.

<https://www.amazon.com/Economics-Medical-Decision-Making-Christine/dp/3330650753>

Marek Kloczewiak, PhD, a biochemist experienced in studies of proteins, peptides, and their molecular interactions in biological systems, with academic credentials from Temple, Vanderbilt, Jefferson, Harvard, and Boston Universities, shared reflections based on his professional experience from several Boston-area biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies such as EMD Pharmaceutical, Biogen Idec, and Pfizer. In his presentation, 'Towards Better Drug Quality Control,' Dr. Kloczewiak discussed the importance of a well-coordinated collaboration between labs involved in the design, production, sales and clinical use of biopharmaceuticals, which are effective and safe for patients. As examples, Dr. Kloczewiak presented two of his projects that were brought to a faster and successful conclusion due to effective international collaboration leading to the introduction of cutting-edge techniques that were applied in reproducible, automated and controllable fashion to improve and speed up the drug-development process.

Dariusz Sliwa, PhD, a biochemist and a graduate of the Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Poland, Utah State University, and the University of Michigan, currently a researcher at the US demo lab of the UK-based company Applied Photophysics, Ltd., discussed the role of international collaboration in the development and accessibility of the top 10 new medical technologies of the last decade, such as robotic surgery, smart inhalers, wireless brain sensors, 3D printing, health wearables, artificial organs, precision medicine, virtual reality, Tele-Health, and CRISPR. In the second part of his presentation, Dr. Sliwa gave specific examples of case studies illustrating how his company - a manufacturer of spectrometers dedicated to improving technology for biophysical characterization of biomolecules - contributes to the overall improvement of the quality of care provided to patients by enhancing the development, production and quality control of pharmaceuticals.

**Panel Five: Quality: Legal, Ethical and Interprofessional Considerations**, moderated by Dr. Nabialczyk-Chalupowski, focused on the role of international and interprofessional collaboration in enhancing the formulation and enforceability of the legal and ethical standards influencing quality of care. Legal and ethical standards are two of the four pillars of the concept of quality of care defined as the degree of compliance with four specific criteria: (1) current scientific knowledge, (2) professional ethical standards, (3) applicable law, and (4) principles of fairness and equity. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7322/jhgd.119237>

The goal of this final Panel of the day was to emphasize all four dimensions of quality of care while focusing on the legal and ethical considerations. In order to explore the interprofessional aspects of care, a specific emphasis was put on discussing the role of formal partnerships (academic, governmental, corporate) as well as informal networks (spontaneously created clusters of like-minded professionals representing different fields) stimulating proactive and creative exchanges of ideas related to legal and ethical aspects of healthcare.

Anita Majchrowska, PhD, a Medical Sociologist and Assistant Professor at the Independent Medical Sociology Unit at the Medical University in Lublin, Poland, presented the results of a qualitative study of ethical, legal, and social issues related to biobanking for scientific purposes and its role in ensuring the quality of care in the context of personalized medicine. The state of the art biobanking infrastructure available in Poland was created in the process of formal collaboration with the BBMRI-ERIC, the European Biobanking and Bio-Molecular Resources Research initiative. BBMRI-ERIC and its Polish counterpart BBMRI-Poland bring together interprofessional groups of researchers, biobankers, industry, and patients in order to enhance biomedical research. They offer quality management services such as expert support regarding ethical, legal and social issues, and a number of online tools and software solutions, with the ultimate goal of creating new treatments according to the individual personal needs of patients.

Cecily Tyler, shared her reflections gained in her capacity as an Instructor and a resident filmmaker at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where the international and interprofessional community of students, fellows and faculty forms a perfect milieu for forging lasting professional relationships resulting in productive collaboration between various academic, corporate and governmental organizations on the national and international levels.

Austa Wakily, JD, an alumna of the University of California Hastings College of the Law, a California Bar attorney experienced in complex professional liability litigation and an honorary guest of the Conference, offered her insightful remarks on the importance of the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and the effective functioning of healthcare systems in general. Attorney Wakily specifically emphasized the role of an effective dialog between the medical and legal communities in ensuring a better mutual understanding in cases when the two professions interact. This is important in the context of common legislative efforts, as well as in the context of litigation involving representatives of both professions.

Andrzej Rys, MD, a graduate of the Jagiellonian University Medical School, currently the Head of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety at the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, summarized the ideas voiced throughout the day and added his own remarks regarding the importance of designing and implementing specific comparable mechanisms for ensuring the safety of healthcare systems at the local, national, regional, and global levels. Dr. Rys emphasized the necessity of recognizing the fact that nowadays, patients have almost unlimited access to health and healthcare-related information. While this is undoubtedly a positive development, it also means that healthcare professionals, policymakers, and patients alike should be aware of the risks of misinformation and the misinterpretation of the readily available health-related news, data, and statistics.

On Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, the participants of the conference were invited to reconvene at the Paris headquarters of the French Foundation for Management Education (FNEGE) <http://www.fnege.org/in-english>, where, welcomed by the Executive Director, Ms. Valerie Fourcade, they had an opportunity to learn about the history of management education in France and the FNEGE's leading role in comprehensive international collaboration in this field, before focusing on the BMJ Research to Publication Programme.

The details of the Programme were presented by two representatives of the BMJ Marketing Team: Steve Thorpe, Head of Sales at the BMJ, with extensive experience in healthcare publishing, and Luke Turnell, Senior Sales Manager at the BMJ in charge of collaboration with academic institutions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Central-Eastern Europe. In their lively and fully interactive presentation, Steve and Luke outlined the problems the BMJ Research to Publication Programme is designed to address, such as poor formulation of research questions, inadequate methodology, poor reporting and the high rate of rejection of papers. The Research to Publication Programme aims to provide participants with an online tool that can be used to develop research skills and get the results of research published in high-quality journals. The Programme is a product of the collaboration between the BMJ senior research editors and the University of California San Francisco Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Research to Publication Programme, currently used by subscribing institutions around the world, is a comprehensive online tool that follows the research cycle and can benefit a variety of professionals representing governments, funders, academic institutions, and independent researchers. The participants of the Paris PAN meeting found the Research to Publication Programme extremely valuable in the context of the needs of their own institutions.

The theme of interprofessional collaboration recurring throughout the two days of the 2019 PAN Paris Conference inspired the topic of the next meeting – The Third PAN Paris International Conference on Quality in Medicine, Global Health and Law – *The Role of Interprofessional Collaboration in Improving Quality of Care*, scheduled to be held 21-23 September 2020.

