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Professor Zbigniew Religa Polish Medical Library – a successful project of the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine

Polska Biblioteka Medyczna im. Profesora Zbigniewa Religi – udany projekt Narodowej biblioteki Nauk Medycznych Ukrainy

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SUMMARY: The Polish Medical Library named after the worldwide known Polish cardiac surgeon Professor Zbigniew Religa is a joint international project of the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine and the District Medical Council in Warsaw with the support of the Polish Embassy in Ukraine. A large number of representatives of the Polish medical community like medical publishers, institutes, clinics, medical societies, medical universities, museums, and other organizations, as well as doctors and scientists, have joined this project. The readers of the Polish Medical Library are medical students, scientists, general practitioners, and healthcare workers from all over Ukraine, which allows them to access modern medical information, get acquainted with the achievements and experience of Polish medical men, be active members of the European medical community.

STRESZCZENIE: Polska Biblioteka Medyczna imienia światowej sławy polskiego kardiochirurga – prof. Zbigniewa Religi jest wspólnym, międzynarodowym projektem Narodowej Biblioteki Nauk Medycznych w Kijowie i Okręgowej Izby Lekarskiej w Warszawie, realizowanym przy wsparciu Ambasady RP na Ukrainie. Do projektu dołączyło wielu przedstawicieli polskiej społeczności medycznej: wydawnictwa, towarzystwa i uniwersytety medyczne, instytuty, kliniki, muzea oraz inne organizacje, a także indywidualni lekarze i naukowcy. Czytelnikami Polskiej Biblioteki Medycznej są studenci medycyny, naukowcy, lekarze ogólni i pracownicy służby zdrowia z całej Ukrainy, co daje im możliwość dostępu do nowoczesnej informacji medycznej, zapoznania się z dorobkiem i doświadczeniem polskich medyków oraz bycia aktywnymi członkami europejskiej społeczności medycznej.

KEYWORDS: National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine, Prof. Zbigniew Religa Polish Medical Library, Prof. Jan Nielubowicz District Medical Council in Warsaw, international cooperation

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The library status is determined by the willingness to provide access to global international resources and to develop international contacts. For many years one of the top-priority activity fields of the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine (NNMBU) is the development of productive international relations with foreign partners from various countries of the world. The vast experience of international partnership has made it possible to implement many joint international projects aimed at the innovative development of the library, updating its activities, international book exchange, etc. The partners of the NNMBU are the Canadian project "Education", the

National Medical Library of the United States, the World Health Organization (Switzerland), the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (USA), the International Foundation "Renaissance", the British Council, the Goethe-Institut, the French Cultural Center in Kyiv, International Rotary Club, Sapporo Medical University (Japan), German publishing house Springer-Verlag, Polish Institute in Kyiv, and others.

For over seven years, the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine cooperated successfully with the District Medical Council in Warsaw. The result of this partnership was the creation of the Polish Medical Books Center in 2011, at the NNMBU. This center of

friendship was initiated with the support of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine in the form of a joint project, the purpose of which was defined:

- Facilitation of the deepening of mutual understanding and cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland by supplying information on the achievements of Polish medical science and practice;
- Involvement in the cooperation and exchange of professional achievements between Polish and Ukrainian medical workers;
- Interpretation and popularization of Polish medical workers contribution to the development of medicine in Ukraine within the framework of the program "Ukrainian Medical Biography."

The project has obtained a significant scale. Many representatives of the Polish medical community, including medical publishers, organizations, institutes, clinics, medical societies, medical universities, museums and also physicians and scientists have joined it. All of them granted books and magazines to the NNMBU funds.

Thus, with the assistance of the Foundation of Polish Cardiac Surgeons and with the consent of Mrs. Dr. Anna Wajszczuk-Religa, Prof. Zbigniew Religa's wife, the library has received books and medical journals from his personal collection, various topics of which concern the achievements of Polish medical workers, laboratory researches, as well, as the use of artificial organs in medical practice.

The active members of the Project are Polish medical publishers like Aluna, Agora, Borgis, Czelej, Elsevier Urban and Partner, Edra Urban and Partner, Medical Tribune, Medycyna Praktyczna, Terapia, Termedia, Znak, Via Medica. The newest books and periodicals have been transferred to the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine by publishing houses. Among them, are English magazines for thoracic surgery "European Journal of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery", "Interactive Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery", "The Annals of Thoracic Surgery" and Polish medical journals "Nowa Medycyna", "Nowa Stomatologia", "Nowa Pediatria", "Medycyna Rodzinna", "Medycyna Praktyczna", "Medycyna po Dyplomie" and many others.

The library fund has been enriched with valuable publications like "Biographical Dictionary of Doctors and Pharmacists - Victims of the Second World War", "History of Pharmacology in Poland", "Dictionary of Medicine and Pharmacy of Upper Silesia", "Medical

Law for Doctors", "Progress in Biomedical Technologies", dissertations of Polish doctors of medicine.

Besides, a large amount of literature has come from the Polish Medical Society, W. Orłowski Clinic of Geriatrics, Internal and Metabolic Diseases in Warsaw, the Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases in Warsaw, the Clinics of Family Medicine in Warsaw, and the Warsaw Medical University.

However, a special part of the publications that have come under this Project are the books and periodicals granted by Polish medical workers and scientists. Currently, there are more than 60 personal donors; we are grateful to each of them for their participation.

A historically significant moment in the work of the Polish Medical Book Center at the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine was the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine and the District Medical Council in Warsaw having taken place on June 4, 2016, during the IX Congress of the Medical Polonia.

This Cooperation Agreement allowed opening the Polish Medical Library in Kyiv on October 12, 2016, that is one of the three Polish libraries outside Poland operating in Rome, Paris, and Kyiv. However, the uniqueness of the Polish Medical Library in Kyiv is a specialized fund that contains publications from various sectors of medicine and health care.

A special honor for the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine was the consent of Mrs. Dr. Anna Wajszczuk-Religa, Prof. Zbigniew Religa's wife, to name the Polish Medical Library in Kyiv after the Prof. Zbigniew Religa. On October 12, 2017, during the solemn ceremony on the occasion of naming the Polish Medical Library after Prof. Zbigniew Religa, the honorable guests were present at the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine:

- Mr. Stanisław Karczewski, Chairman of the Senate of Rzeczpospolita, with his wife;
- Mr. Jan Piekło, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine, and his wife;
- Mrs. Dr. Anna Wajszczuk-Religa, the wife of Professor Zbigniew Religa, and their son, Mr. Grzegorz Religa, Doctor of Medical Sciences, head of the Cardiosurgery Department of the W. Begansky Specialized Voivodship Hospital;
- Representatives of the Senate of Rzeczpospolita and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine;

- Mr. Adam Bala, Head of the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Polish-Ukrainian Foundation;
- Professor Vitaliy Tsymbalyuk, President of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine;
- Mr. Andrzej Sawoni, Chairman of the District Medical Council; Ms. Ewa Miękus-Pączek, Secretary of the District Medical Council; Mr. Krzysztof Krulikowski, Commissioner of the Head of the District Medical Council in the matter of the Polish Medical Library;
- Professor Barbara Górnicka, Vice-rector of the Warsaw Medical University;
- Professor Witold Rużyłło, Dean of the Department of the Polish Academy of Science;
- Mrs. Maria Sućzewska, Vice-President of the Federation of Polish Medical Organizations;
- Professor Anatol Świącicki, the head of the Union of Ukrainian doctors of Polish origin;
- Mr. I. Soroka, President of the Ukrainian Medical Club.

The years of cooperation have given the library a new impetus, full of new ideas and opportunities. Thanks to this project activity, the quality of services provided to users are being improved, a positive image of the library is being formed, new perspectives are appearing, etc.

Today the fund of the Polish Medical Library exceeds 7,000 publications. More than 10,000 users have been served during the work. The readers of the Polish Medical Library are medical students, scientists, general practitioners, and healthcare workers. Especially popular are the latest periodicals on family medicine, postgraduate education. Readers actively ask Atlases, monographs on neurology, otorhinolaryngology, oncology, management issues in health care, and the history of Polish medicine. The books of the notable Polish physician, Professor Andrzej Szczeklik "Choroby wewnętrzne," as well as the annual edition of the book "Interna Szczeklika" edited by Piotr Gajewski, are viral among Ukrainian medical workers.

The library readily announces its activities to online users. News and materials on joint events are regularly placed on the website; there are also virtual exhibitions of new literature. Literature is displayed in the electronic catalog, on the library's website and presented in open access in the reading room. The resource potential of the Prof. Zbigniew Religa Polish Medical Library in Kyiv is widely available to all users.

Within the framework of the Project, bilateral creative meetings between representatives of the library and Polish partners take place annually in Kyiv and Warsaw.

During the work of the Prof. Zbigniew Religa Polish Medical Library in Kyiv, many joint events have taken place there with the participation of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ukraine, the Polish Institute in Kyiv and various Polish organizations. These events are widely covered in the Polish and Ukrainian mass media, on the Internet pages of the NNMBU and in the Prof. Zbigniew Religa Polish Medical Library in Kyiv, in social networks.

The work of the Prof. Zbigniew Religa Polish Medical Library in Kyiv provides Ukrainian medical workers and scientists with access to up-to-date medical information, allowing in becoming acquainted with the achievements and experience of Polish colleagues, to be active members of the European medical community.

We especially appreciate our experience of working with Polish partners that give new breath and a new way of looking at things.

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