

# History of the School of Public Health at the Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education (Directors of the SZP from 1971 to 2021)

## *Historia Szkoły Zdrowia Publicznego CMKP (1971-2021)*

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### KEYWORDS:

- CMKP
- history of medicine
- School of Public Health

### ABSTRACT

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education (CMKP) was celebrated in 2021. Since the beginning, the School of Public Health (SZP) has been inseparably linked with the CMKP. Throughout this period, the position of the SZP director has been held by eight persons i.e., Bogusław Kożuszniak (1971 to 1977), Marek Sanecki (1978 to 1991), Andrzej Wojtczak (1991 to 1996), Jerzy Leowski (1996 to 2003), Janusz Opolski (2003 to 2004 and 2005 to 2011), Maria Miller (2005 to 2005), Dorota Cianciara (2011 to 2018) and Jarosław Pinkas (since 2018). In the paper, the consecutive directors and the SZP modifications during the period of the recent 50 years is presented.

### SŁOWA KLUCZOWE:

- CMKP
- historia medycyny
- Szkoła Zdrowia Publicznego

### STRESZCZENIE

W 2021 r. obchodzone było 50-lecie powstania Centrum Medycznego Kształcenia Podyplomowego. Z CMKP od początku nierozdzielnie związana jest Szkoła Zdrowia Publicznego. W tym czasie funkcje dyrektora SZP pełniło osiem osób, tj. Bogusław Kożuszniak (1971-1977), Marek Sanecki (1978-1991), Andrzej Wojtczak (1991-1996), Jerzy Leowski (1996-2003), Janusz Opolski (2003-2004 i 2005-2011), Maria Miller (2005-2005), Dorota Cianciara (2011-2018) i Jarosław Pinkas (od 2018). Artykuł przedstawia sylwetki kolejnych dyrektorów oraz zmiany zachodzące w SZP w ciągu ostatnich 50 lat.

### Introduction

The first organised forms of postgraduate education for physicians and other health professionals with a higher education degree started at the beginning of the 1950s (1). Pursuant to the Regulation of the Minister of Health of 1953, the Institute of Improvement and Specialisation for the Medical Personnel at the Medical Academy of Warsaw was established (2). Prof. Marcin Kacprzak became the director of this institution, followed by Prof. Walenty Hartwig. The Institute was transformed into the Medical Improvement Centre for Physicians (3). The centre functioned successfully for over a decade. The development of medical knowledge and a growing demand of the healthcare system for qualified personnel led to necessary organisational modifications. Hence, on 9 October 1970, pursuant to the Regulation of the Council of Ministers, the Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education (*Centrum Medyczne Kształcenia Podyplomowego*, CMKP) was established as an independent research and teaching institution, with its own statute and the right to award academic degrees (4). The CMKP formally began its activities on 1 January 1971. Prof. Edward Rużyło was appointed the first director of the CMKP. At that time, due to the initiative and commitment of prof. Bogusław

Kożuszniak and prof. Edward Rużyło, the Centre of Social Medicine (*Studium Medycyny Społecznej*, SMS) was established, later transformed into the School of Public Health in 1966. In 2018, the legal entity of the CMKP was confirmed by a relevant legal act (5).

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CMKP was celebrated in 2021. The School of Public Health (*Szkoła Zdrowia Publicznego*, SZP) has always been an inseparable part of the CMKP. For 50 years, a continuous development of the School of Public Health at the CMKP has been observed (6). The goals of it were mainly supported by its directors. Therefore, it is well worth presenting these persons to a larger audience as part of describing the SZP history. The aim of this paper is a concise presentation of the SZP consecutive directors from 1971 to 2021 i.e., Bogusław Kożuszniak, Marek Sanecki, Andrzej Wojtczak, Jerzy Leowski, Janusz Opolski, Maria Miller, Dorota Cianciara and Jarosław Pinkas (7, 8).

### **Bogusław Kożuszniak (Director from 1971 to 1977)**

Bogusław Kożuszniak was born on 29 January 1910 in Sucha Dolna, Zaolzie (9). He graduated from the Charles University

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of Prague, Faculty of Medicine. Until 1939, he worked in the miners' hospital in Petrkovice which currently is a district of Ostrava, the Czech Republic. Next, he was a director of the hospital for infectious diseases in Karwin. When Zaolzie was incorporated into Poland, he advocated the physicians of Czech nationality born on this territory who were told to leave it within 48 hours. Prof. Kożuszniak was awarded the PhD degree in medicine in 1935 and the title of professor in 1965.



**Figure 1. Professor Bogusław Kożuszniak.**  
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

During the Second World War, Bogusław Kożuszniak was a military volunteer in the Polish Army. After the September Campaign, he reached France, travelling through Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Norway and England, where he acted as a military physician for the Polish Army draftees. Next, he went to England with the Polish Army where he co-created the Polish administration in exile, e.g., he was the head of the health department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Care and the chief physician of the Polish Merchant Navy headquartered in London. He returned to Poland in 1945 and got involved in organizing the Polish healthcare institutions, particularly creating the Sanitary Inspectorate which was necessary at that time. Due to his efforts, great amounts of penicillin were brought to Poland for the first time.

Bogusław Kożuszniak held many professional and organisational positions. He was the Deputy Minister of Health from 1946 to 1959, a member of the Legislative Parliament on behalf of the PPS and PZPR between 1947 and 1952, Poland's Chief Sanitary Inspector (1955 to 1959) as well as the co-founder and the first director of the Medical Improvement Centre for Physicians.

On behalf of Poland, Professor Kożuszniak was involved in activities aimed at establishing the World Health Organisation (WHO). For instance, he attended the inaugural session and was engaged in the WHO activities for many years. He was a member of the WHO Governing Board between 1948 and 1951. Moreover, he was the chairman of the Polish Committee of Cooperation with the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF) and the deputy chairman of the UNICEF Governing Board from 1957 to 1979. He was also an active member of the National Commission for Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, the president of the Supreme Council of the Committee of Social Assistance and the Association of Fine Arts and the chairman of the Social Committee of the Fight against Tobacco Use. Professor Kożuszniak was a member, the president (1964 to 1977) and, since 1977, the honorary president of the Polish Association of Social

Medicine. Between 1962 and 1979, he was the chief editor of the "Public Health" journal and a member of the editorial board of the "International Journal of Health Survey" (1971 to 1977).

He was the author or co-author of over 200 papers, the supervisor of 6 doctoral theses and the author of 94 entries in *Wielka Encyklopedia Powszechna*, PWN.

He was awarded many orders and medals for his outstanding organizational and scientific achievements, such as the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Order of the White Lion Class I and Class II in Czechoslovakia, the medal of the Commission of National Education, the medal of Claude Bernard in France, the medal of UNICEF and others.

He died on 9 July 1996 in Warsaw and was buried at the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw.

While he was the director of the SZP (called the Centre of Social Medicine at that time) between 1971 and 1977, the institution consisted of six departments and its main goal was to educate specialists of the second degree in health protection. This degree was awarded to approximately 90 persons. The Centre was the only Polish institution where this specialty training was available. In addition, the Centre was the main organizer and coordinator of management training for the integrated healthcare system. This Polish model of organization of healthcare services in a county was supported by the World Health Organization as a role model to be followed by other countries. Within the paradigm of healthcare integration, future managers of healthcare institutions and polyclinical hospitals in the whole country were trained. The education of senior personnel in the Centre of Social Medicine at the CMKP had a great contribution to the success of the integrated reform in the 1970s (6).

### **Marek Sanecki (Director from 1978 to 1991)**

Marek Sanecki was born on 27 July 1931 in Warsaw (10). In 1955, he graduated from the Medical Academy of Warsaw, Faculty of Medicine. Following the postgraduate course at the University of Bristol in 1961, he was awarded a degree in public health. In 1964, he completed the postgraduate course in African studies at the University of Warsaw. He is a specialist in epidemiology (the first degree in 1959, the second degree in 1961), infectious diseases (1959) and health protection (the second degree in 1970).

In 1950, while studying medicine, he started working in the Department of Epidemiology at the National Institute



**Figure 2. Professor Marek Sanecki.**  
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

of Hygiene (*Państwowy Zakład Higieny, PZH*) where he was awarded the PhD degree in medicine based on the thesis titled "Epidemiological differences between Flexner's dysentery and Sonne dysentery in Poland between 1954 and 1962" (*Różnice epidemiologiczne czerwonki typu Flexner i typu Sonne w Polsce w latach 1954-1962*). He worked in the PZH until 1965. Simultaneously, he started working in the Medical Improvement Centre for Physicians, Faculty of Health Protection, at the Medical Academy of Warsaw. He began his work as a senior assistant, followed by the position of a senior lecturer since 1966 and a research associate since 1970. In 1971, after the transformation of the Medical Improvement Centre for Physicians into an independent research and teaching institution (the CMKP), he automatically became an employee of the Centre of Social Medicine at the CMKP. There, based on the paper titled "Concepts and systems of health protection in tropical Africa" (*Koncepcje i systemy ochrony zdrowia w Afryce tropikalnej*), he was awarded the postdoctoral degree and appointed an assistant professor. When prof. Bogusław Kożusznik retired in 1978, he became the director of the Centre of Social Medicine at the CMKP and held this position until he retired in 1991.

Between 1966 and 1970, he worked for the World Health Organization. From 1966 to 1969, he was a regional advisor on combating infectious diseases and anti-epidemic services in the Regional Office for Africa in Brazzaville, Congo. Then, until 1970, he continued his work in the Department of Public Health Services in the headquarter of the World Health Organization in Geneva.

When Professor Sanecki retired in 1991, he became a lecturer and the chairman of the Programme Committee at the Centre of Healthcare Education and Advisory in Warsaw. He was also a lecturer at the University of Ecology and Management in Warsaw. Moreover, he delivered lectures in the Postgraduate Centre of Management of Health Protection Organizations, in the School of Economics, Faculty of Management and the Postgraduate Centre of Pharmacoeconomics, Marketing and Pharmaceutical Law at the Business School, Warsaw University of Technology. Between 2004 and 2010, he was employed again as a lecturer in the School of Public Health at the CMKP where he continued his teaching activities.

Professor Sanecki is the author or co-author of over 100 papers, including many original articles, textbooks and monographs on epidemiological methodology, epidemiology of infectious diseases, the evolution of the healthcare system in Poland as well as the existing models of healthcare and health insurances in European and non-European countries. To date, he has been a supervisor of 6 doctoral theses as well as many master theses and diploma papers.

He was awarded the Silver and Gold Crosses of Merit and the Order for the "Model Work in the Healthcare Services".

While Marek Sanecki was holding the position of the director, the organizational structure was modified: the number of departments increased to eight facilities (in 1984) and the teaching activities were expanded to include the education of first degree specialists in social medicine. This structure of the Centre functioned until the political and social transformation in late 1980s and early 1990s (6).

### **Andrzej Wojtczak (Director from 1991 to 1996)**

Andrzej Wojtczak was born on 11 December 1933 in Bielsko-Biała (8). He graduated from a secondary school in Śrem.

In 1955, he graduated with distinction from the Medical Academy of Poznań, Faculty of Medicine. Next, he started working as an assistant in the II Department of Internal Medicine managed by prof. Jan Roguski. He obtained the first degree specialty in internal medicine in 1957 and the second degree specialty as well as the degree in public health in 1961.

In 1961, he was awarded the PhD degree by the Medical Academy of Poznań based on the thesis titled "Clinical relevance of the assessment of acid-base balance disorders" (*Znaczenie kliniczne oceny zaburzeń równowagi kwasowo-zasadowej*). At the same university, he was awarded the postdoctoral degree in 1966 based on the paper titled "Pyelonephritis in the light of functional testing" (*Zapalenie odmiedniczkowe nerek w świetle badań czynnościowych*). In 1972, he was awarded the title of the university professor.



**Figure 3. Professor Andrzej Wojtczak.**

Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Between late 1950s and early 1960s, he completed research programmes in excellent nephrology centers in Europe and the USA, such as the Cardiology Clinic in Prague (Czechoslovakia) and the Nephrology Clinics in Philadelphia and Boston. Between 1978 and 1986, he worked for the World Health Organization in the Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen. He was the director for studies and education of the medical personnel from 1978 to 1982 and then he was appointed the director for the health policy and systems, studies and medical education.

Pursuant to the decision of the Minister of Health and Social Care issued at the end of 1986, he was called back to Poland where he became the manager of the Department of International Health Affairs at the CMKP. In January 1989, he was appointed the under state secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Care and the co-chairman of the subgroup for the Health Affairs during the Round Table talks. Between 1989 and 1991, he was the under state secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Care in Tadeusz Mazowiecki's cabinet.

He became the Dean of the Centre of Social Medicine at the CMKP in 1991, followed by the position of the director of the School of Public Health at the CMKP. In 1955, Professor Wojtczak accepted the proposal of the World Health Organization to create and manage the Research Centre for Health in Kobe, Japan. Being the director of the Centre, he attended the Executive Committee meetings and was the member of General Assemblies and Advisory Committees of the World Health Organization. He held the position of the director of the Centre until he retired in 1999. Between 1999 and 2005, he was the director of the Institute

of International Medical Education Affairs in New York. Since 2006, he worked in the Collegium Mazovia Innovative University in Siedlce, Faculty of Public Health.

Professor Andrzej Wojtczak was a member of many scientific organizations and associations, including the European Health Management Association (a honorary member), the Association of Medical Schools in Europe (a honorary member), the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia (a corresponding member), the Association for Medical Education in Europe (a lifetime member) as well as the Polish Medical Association and the Polish Society of Nephrology where he became a honorary member in 2019 (11).

He was the author or co-author of over 500 papers on medicine, medical education and public health as well as the editor of the textbook titled "Internal diseases" (*Choroby wewnętrzne*) and the author of the book titled "Public health as a challenge to healthcare systems in the twenty-first century (*Zdrowie publiczne wyzwaniem dla systemów zdrowia XXI wieku*). He was the supervisor of many doctoral theses.

He was awarded the Commander's, Officer's and the Knight's Crosses of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Gold Cross of Merit, and the Order for the "Health Protection Services".

Professor Andrzej Wojtczak died on 20 May 2020 in Warsaw. He was buried in the Evangelical Reformed Cemetery in Warsaw. In commemoration of Professor Andrzej Wojtczak, one of the lecture rooms in the SZP was given his name in 2020.

The most important success of Andrzej Wojtczak as the SZP director between 1991 and 1996 was the transformation of the Centre of Social Medicine into the School of Public Health (SZP) in 1996. This transformation expressed a growing interest in the global public health and a return to a good tradition of studies, arts and education aimed at health improvement of communities. As a result, new contents and teaching methods for public health were introduced, the SZP organizational units were expanded to include e.g., the medical law and bioethics and the SZP international activities were initiated in 1990s (6).

### **Jerzy Leowski (Director from 1996 to 2003)**

Jerzy Leowski was born on 10 April 1928 in Pabianice (9). He studied medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical Academy of Warsaw, between 1949 and 1954. He started working as a physician in the Institute of Hygiene in 1955 under the supervision of prof. Marcin Kacprzak. He obtained the specialty degree in epidemiology in the same year.



**Figure 4. Professor Jerzy Leowski.**  
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Between 1959 and 1960, he completed the postgraduate course in public health in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and was awarded the degree of Master of Public Health.

In 1964, he was awarded the PhD degree by the Medical Academy of Warsaw based on the thesis titled "Evaluation of health measures for industrial workers" (*Ocena mierników stanu zdrowia pracowników zakładu przemysłowego*) (supervised by prof. Marcin Kacprzak). He was awarded the postdoctoral degree based on the paper titled "Assessment of combating tuberculosis in Poland" (*Ocena walki z gruźlicą w Polsce*). The State Council awarded him the title of university professor in 1978.

He worked in the Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases in Warsaw from 1955 to 1978; he was its director and the head of the Epidemiology and Tuberculosis Department since 1968. He worked for the World Health Organization for many years. Between 1978 and 1980, he was an expert in the Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila. Moreover, he worked as the head of the tuberculosis combat programme in the headquarter of the World Health Organization in Geneva from 1980 to 1988. He was the director of the SZP at the CMKP between 1996 and 2003.

Professor Leowski was a member of the Polish Hygiene Society, Polish Association of Social Medicine, Polish Society of Phthisiopulmonology, Scientific Committee at the Ministry of Health and Social Care, International Epidemiological Association and the WHO Expert Committee on Tuberculosis.

Professor Leowski was the author or co-author of over 140 papers, including 70 original publications e.g., the textbook titled "Health policy and public health" (*Polityka zdrowotna a zdrowie publiczne*). He was a supervisor of 9 doctoral theses.

He was awarded many orders for his achievements, including the Gold Cross of Merit in 1969, the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1974 and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1988.

Professor Leowski died on 25 March 2006 in Warsaw and was buried in the Powązki Military Cemetery in Warsaw.

The period from 1996 to 2003 when he held the position of the SZP director was the time of a close cooperation with the World Health Organization. The issues of international health concerns were the subjects of scientific research and became important components of the teaching process. The SZP employees attended many international conferences and were the members of the WHO expert groups. Moreover, Polish representatives participated in the WHO activities. The first educational programme regarding a new specialty in public health was developed during this period. In addition, a concept of uniform public health course for all specialty physicians was created (6).

### **Janusz Opolski (Director from 2003 to 2004 and 2005 to 2011)**

Janusz Tadeusz Opolski was born on 22 May 1946 in Katowice. He graduated from Jan Zamoyski Secondary School in Warsaw. In 1970, he graduated from the Medical Academy of Warsaw, Faculty of Medicine. Having completed the postgraduate course (co-organised by the WHO Regional Office for Europe), he was awarded the degree of the Master of Public Health. He is the first degree specialist in social medicine (1973) as well as the second degree specialist in health protection (1975) and the public health (2004). He was awarded the PhD degree by the CMKP in 1980

based on the thesis titled "The reasons of fluctuations of physicians concerning general preventive and therapeutic areas in the example of Warsaw" (*Przyczyny fluktuacji lekarzy ogólnych rejonów profilaktyczno-leczniczych na przykładzie m. st. Warszawy*).



**Figure 5. Professor Janusz Opolski.**

Source: Wikimedia Commons.

In 1970, he started his professional career in the Institute of Healthcare and Jurisprudence, the CMKP Centre of Social Medicine. Between 1980 and 1991, he worked for the healthcare administration sector as the deputy director of the Warsaw-Żoliborz Healthcare Centre, followed by the position of director of the Warsaw-Mokotów Healthcare Centre. He participated in the Round Table talks as a member of the Health Subgroup in 1989. He was a co-organiser in 1992 and, until 1994, the medical director in the Saint Vincent International Medical Centre in Warsaw. He was the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Health, prof. Jacek Żochowski, during the period between 1995 and 1997. Professor Opolski was the president of the Sanitary Reserves Agency from 1997 to 2002 and, following its reorganization, the vice-president of the Material Reserves Agency.

He held the position of the under state secretary twice in the Ministry of Health: from 17 March 2003 to 4 April 2003 in the cabinet of the Prime Minister Leszek Miller and in the cabinet of the Prime Minister Marek Belka between 15 December 2004 and 3 November 2005.

He was the SZP director at the CMKP and the head of the Institute of Economics, Law and Management in this institution during the periods of 2003 to 2004 and 2005 to 2011. He has been the university professor at the University of Ecology and Management in Warsaw since 2011.

He was the expert and advisor in the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the WHO Headquarter in Geneva for many years. Professor Opolski held the position of the WHO Liaison Officer in Poland and the alternate member of the WHO Executive Board. He was also a member of the Public Health Committee of the European Council.

He was a member of many scientific associations and social organizations, including the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association and the Polish Students' Association (e.g., he was a secretary of the University Council of the Polish Students' Association at the Medical Academy of Warsaw). Moreover, he was a secretary of the Management Board of the Polish Society of Social Medicine as well as the founder member and vice-chairman of the Association of Healthcare Managers during the first term.

Professor Opolski is the author or co-author of over 50 scientific papers on medical education and public health. He was also the medical editor of the two-volume textbook titled

"Public health. Selected issues" (*Zdrowie publiczne. Wybrane zagadnienia*) and the textbook titled "Public Health. An outline of the issues" (*Zdrowie publiczne. Zarys problematyki*).

He was awarded the Silver Cross of Merit, the Medal of the Commission of National Education and the Order for the "Model Work in the Healthcare Services".

#### **Maria Miller (Director from 2005 to 2005)**

Maria Stanisława Miller was born on 28 May 1939 in Warsaw. She graduated from the Medical Academy of Warsaw, Faculty of Medicine, in 1963. She became the first degree specialist in lung diseases in 1968, the first degree specialist in social medicine in 1973, the second degree specialist in health protection in 1975 and the specialist in public health in 2004.



**Figure 6. Professor Maria Miller.**

Source: Wikimedia Commons.

She was awarded the PhD degree in 1972 based on the doctoral thesis titled "Evaluation of the suitability of the Wright Peak Flow Meter for detection of impaired ventilation during chest x-ray screening scans" (*Ocena przydatności aparatu Peak Flow Meter-Wrighta dla wykrywania upośledzenia wentylacji w toku masowych badań radiofotograficznych klatki piersiowej*) which also won a prize of the Scientific Board at the Ministry of Health. She was awarded the postdoctoral degree in 1990 based on the paper titled "Evaluation of the tuberculosis information systems to date – the Central Tuberculosis Register as a new assessment tool for the epidemiological situation and the effectiveness of the tuberculosis combat programme in Poland" (*Ocena dotychczasowych systemów informacyjnych gruźlicy – Centralny Rejestr Gruźlicy jako nowe narzędzie oceny sytuacji epidemiologicznej i skuteczności programu zwalczania gruźlicy w Polsce*). She was appointed the university professor in 1993 and awarded the title of professor in 2003 pursuant to the decision of the President of the Republic of Poland.

Following the postgraduate programme, she started working in the Institute of Tuberculosis in Warsaw in 1966. She stayed there until 1996 and held the position of the head of the Department of Epidemiology since 1991. She worked in the SZP at the CMKP between 1996 and 2009 as the head of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion. In addition, she was the head of the whole institution in 2005. She also worked in the National Institute of Hygiene from 1997 to 2016 as the head of the Department of Health Promotion.

Professor Maria Miller is the author or co-author of over 100 papers as well as several monographs and textbooks on public health and epidemiology, including non-infectious diseases and the effects of environmental factors

on the human health in particular. She was the supervisor of 6 doctoral theses.

She was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit and the Order for the "Model Work in the Healthcare Services".

During the period between 2003 and 2011, the SZP director was Professor Janusz Opolski, with an interval in 2005 when Professor Maria Miller held this position. At that time, the SZP initiated the system project titled "Education during the process of training in deficit specialties i.e., oncology, cardiology, occupational medicine" (*Kształcenie w ramach procesu specjalizacji lekarzy deficytowych specjalności tj. onkologów, kardiologów, lekarzy medycyny pracy*), (financed by the European Union as part of the Human Capital Operational Programme) and trained 1163 physicians during the period between 2008 and 2015. Many teaching materials on various public health issues were developed as well as the two-volume textbook titled "Public Health. Selected issues" (*Zdrowie publiczne. Wybrane zagadnienia*) and the first textbook titled "Medical law" (*Prawo medyczne*) were published. Throughout this period, major renovations were carried out on the SZP facility for the first time since the CMKP foundation (6).

#### **Dorota Cianciara** (Director from 2011 to 2018)

Dorota Antonina Cianciara was born on 9 February 1954. She graduated from the University of Warsaw, Faculty of Biology, in 1977. She was awarded the PhD degree in 1995 by the National Institute of Hygiene based on the thesis titled "Knowledge about the AIDS, AIDS-related attitudes and behaviors among men who start their basic military service" (*Wiedza o AIDS, postawy i zachowania związane z AIDS wśród mężczyzn rozpoczynających zasadniczą służbę wojskową*). The same institution awarded her the postdoctoral degree in 2007 based on her scientific achievements and the paper titled "Evaluation of the structure and usability of information available in promotional materials for over-the-counter medical products from the perspective of new public health" (*Ocena struktury oraz użyteczności informacji zawartych w materiałach reklamujących produkty lecznicze dostępne bez recepty z perspektywy nowego zdrowia publicznego*).



**Figure 7. Professor Dorota Cianciara.**  
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Her professional career is associated with the SZP at the CMKP where she was the head of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion as well as the director

of the institution during two terms from 2011 to 2018 and with the National Institute of Public Health – the National Institute of Hygiene.

Professor Dorota Cianciara was the Vice-President of the Polish Association of Health Education and she held the position of the voivodeship consultant on public health in the Mazovian Voivodeship.

She is the author or co-author of over 100 papers on health and public health promotion, including the book titled "The outline of contemporary health promotion" (*Zarys współczesnej promocji zdrowia*).

She was awarded the honorary Order for "Health Protection Services" in 2008 and the Medal of the Commission of National Education in 2017 for her significant scientific and organizational achievements.

The period between 2011 and 2018 when Professor Dorota Cianciara was the SZP director was the time of continuation of the previously initiated activities. Since 2017, the training programme for physicians within the "Knowledge, Education, Development" Operational Programme has been carried out. It is co-financed by the EU as part of the European Social Fund. Its completion is planned in 2023.

#### **Jarosław Pinkas** (Director since 2018)

Jarosław Jan Pinkas was born on 29 August 1955 in Gliwice. He graduated from the Medical Academy in Warsaw, Faculty of Medicine, in 1980. He obtained the first and the second degree specialty in general surgery in 1986 and 1991, respectively, the first degree specialty in social medicine in 1987, the family medicine specialty in 1995 and the public health specialty in 2004. He was awarded the PhD degree in 2002 by the Medical Academy of Lublin. Professor Pinkas was awarded the postdoctoral degree in 2018 by the Polish Mother's Research Institute. He was awarded the title of professor in the fields of medicine and health science in 2021.



**Figure 8. Professor Jarosław Pinkas.**  
Source: Wikimedia Commons.

He started his professional career as a surgeon. Throughout the next years, he expanded his interest in the development and organization of healthcare in Poland. He worked in the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Implementation of the Health Insurance Scheme as well as he was the President of the College of Family Physicians in Poland between 1996 and 2001. He cooperated with Professor Zbigniew Religa for over 20 years, e.g., in the Cardiac Surgery Department of the MSW Central

Teaching Hospital and in the Institute of Cardiology in Anin as the deputy director for clinical and organisational affairs.

He was the under state secretary in the Ministry of Health, managed by prof. Zbigniew Religa, from 4 November 2005 to 28 November 2007. At that time, he was the co-author of the act on emergency medical services. He was the president of the Polish Red Cross between December 2005 and December 2007. Professor Pinkas held the position of the director of the National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene from 2007 to 2009.

He was the state secretary in the Ministry of Health from 19 November 2015 to 1 February 2017. He was the co-author of the implementation of the tobacco directive for the Polish legal order. Between 13 April 2017 and 8 March 2018, he was the state secretary in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Government Plenipotentiary for organization of administrative structures for food safety. He held the position of the Chief Sanitary Inspector from 1 September 2018 to 20 November 2020. Professor Jarosław Pinkas has been the national consultant on public health since 25 June 2018. He was elected as a member of the Public Health Committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences for the period of 2020 to 2023. In 2021, he was appointed a member of the Health Protection Council by the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda.

Since 2009, his professional career has been associated with the CMKP School of Public Health where he is the head of the Department of Lifestyle Medicine. In addition, he has been the director and dean of this institution since 2018.

Professor Jarosław Pinkas is the author or co-author of over 100 papers and conference reports as well as the editor of the monograph titled "Contemporary challenges to public health" (*Współczesne wyzwania zdrowia publicznego*) published in 2021.

Since 2018 when professor Pinkas has been the SZP director and dean while Professor Janusz Ostrowski and dr Wojciech Stefan Zgliczyński are the deputy deans, the SZP has been developing dynamically. In 2019, the SZP developed and implemented hybrid specialty education (i.e., linking on-line classes with stationary lectures) as the first CMKP institution. In partnership with the Warsaw School of Economics, the SZP is conducting the project titled "Interdisciplinary and effective: trainings aimed at higher competences of authorities establishing healthcare institutions and persons who manage them" (*Interdyscyplinarnie efektywnie skutecznie: szkolenia podnoszące kompetencje pracowników organów tworzących i osób zarządzających podmiotami leczniczymi*) as part of the "Knowledge, Education, Development" Operational Programme for the period of 2014 to 2020. The project is co-financed by the European Social Fund. Moreover, the SZP is the leader of the project financed by the National Centre for Research and Development as part of the Gospostrateg programme, titled "Building the confidence in vaccines using the most recent tools for social communication and influence" (*Budowanie zaufania do szczepień ochronnych z wykorzystaniem najnowszych narzędzi komunikacji i wpływu społecznego*). In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the SZP offered physicians participation in on-line courses covering all the curricula (6). Since 2018, the SZP has significantly increased the number of papers

published in the foreign scientific journals; for instance, the IF and MEIN scores in 2019 were 37.464 and 1445, respectively. In 2020, they were 83.515 and 3330, respectively, while in 2021, they were 136.351 and 4265. During the period of Jarosław Pinkas' directorship, major renovations on the SZP facility have been carried out.

## Summary

The beginnings of the CMKP School of Public Health are inseparably linked with the beginnings of the CMKP itself. Over the period of 50 years, the position of the SZP director has been held by eight persons i.e., Bogusław Kożuszniak (1971 to 1977), Marek Sanecki (1978 to 1991), Andrzej Wojtczak (1991 to 1996), Jerzy Leowski (1996 to 2003), Janusz Opolski (2003 to 2004 and 2005 to 2011), Maria Miller (2005 to 2005), Dorota Cianciara (2011 to 2018) and Jarosław Pinkas (since 2018). The previous half of the century was the time of continuous development and also of the continuation. Many years of experience and a strong team place the SZP among the most important Polish research and teaching institutions in the field of public health.

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