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Antoni Gluziński - a Classic of Polish Internal Medicine

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.
ANTONI GLUZIŃSKI
- A CLASSIC OF POLISH INTERNAL MEDICINE

A doyen of Polish internal medicine who fathered three University internal medicine schools: the Kraków, Lwów and Warsaw schools, Antoni Władysław Gluźniński came from a family with live medical traditions. His father, Franciszek Wiercimak, came from a peasant family. After his father’s death, during his last years of medical studies at the Jagiellonian University, he adopted his mother’s, Katarzyna Gluźnińska’s, maiden name. Having received his diploma in medicine, he settled in Sompolno where he acquired the reputation of a good and exemplary doctor. He took part in Polish patriotic risings (the Kraków rising of 1846 and the January Rising of 1863). The father of Antoni Gluźniński’s mother’s, on the other hand, Waleria Szarle (Charlais), was a French surgeon who had settled in Poland and later became a doctor of the Austrian army.

Antoni Gluźniński’s three siblings also distinguished themselves: Lesław, who was two years younger, became a physician who was noted for his contribution to developing an inhalation centre in the renowned Polish health resort of Szczawnica in the Pieniny Mountains which comprise part of the Tatra Range. He was also a pianist and talented chess champion. His younger brother, Thaddeus, was a renowned advocate lawyer in Warsaw after having completed legal studies. Antoni Gluźniński also had a sister, Zofia Węgrzynowska by marriage⁴.

Antoni Gluźniński was born on 18 May 1856 in Włocławek, an old provincial town in the Kujawy region. In 1874, he completed the famous grammar school of St Anna in Kraków and then studied medicine at the Jagiellonian University. He was a pupil of the anatomist – Ludwik Karol Teichmann², the physiologist – Gustaw Piotrowski⁳, the pathological anatomy professor – Ta-

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² Ludwik Karol Teichmann (1823–1895), prof. of pathological anatomy (1861–68) and descriptive anatomy (1868–94) UJ, world renowned researcher into the human lymphatic system.
³ Gustaw Piotrowski (1833–1884), prof. of physiology UJ (1859–84), he described the so called biuretic reaction which allows peptide bonds to be identified in chemical compounds.
deusz Browicz\textsuperscript{1}, and especially the internal medicine professor – Edward Korczyński\textsuperscript{2}.

During his studies, he engaged in social work as the chairman of the Academic reading room of the Jagiellonian University (1878–1879), and later of the Association for UJ Student Mutual Aid (1879–1880).

He obtained his doctorate at the UJ in 1880. Then, for a few years, he continued supplementary studies, first at the university at Dorpat (1880) and then in Vienna (1880–1881). After returning to Poland, he worked as an assistant at the Chair of Physiology and in 1882–1885 as an assistant at the Chair and Clinic of Internal Medicine at the Jagiellonian University.

In 1884, he carried out a lengthy research expedition to Wrocław and a year later he travelled to the universities of Prague, Lipsk, Berlin and Paris. In Lipsk, he learnt of the newest breakthroughs in physiology from Carl Ludwig and in Paris he learnt the foundations of clinical neurology from the founder of the discipline, Jean Martin Charcot.

In 1885, Antoni Gluziński obtained his post-doc habilitacja from the Jagiellonian University in pathology and specific therapy for his work on the influence of alcohol on the function of physiological and pathologically altered stomachs\textsuperscript{3}, after which he took up work as an assistant professor by the Chair and Clinic of Internal Medicine. In 1890, he obtained the title of extraordinary professor of this institution and in 1893 he obtained the title of ordinary professor and the position of director of the Chair of General and Experimental Pathology at the UJ. At first he lectured clinical microscopy and medical diagnostics and as from 1893 he taught a full course of general and experimental pathology\textsuperscript{4}. At the time, he had already been combining University teaching with a private medical practice for a year. He did not receive his hoped for Chair of Internal Medicine, however, until 1897 and this in Lwów.

His appointment to the post of director of the clinic in Lwów was linked with the paradoxical situation of Lwów University which had no Medical Faculty since the beginning of the nineteenth century. This was a result of the university reforms which had been conducted by Emperor Joseph II at the beginning of the nineteenth century when this university was conferred a decidedly administrative profile. Since medicine would have been relegated to only a secondary role in a university so organised, a special separate higher education body was established for it, but over the years it lost in its importance and lowered its standards. Thus, by the second half of the nineteenth century, Lwów had no academic medical faculty. In the mid nineties of

\textsuperscript{1} Tadeusz Browicz (1847–1928), prof. of pathological anatomy UJ (1880–1919), discovered – independently from K. W. Kupffer – Kupffer cells in liver blood vessels which comprise part of the intermembranous epithelio–endothelial system. Cf. S. Ciechanowski, Browicz Tadeusz in: Polski Słownik Biograficzny, t. 2, p. 475.


\textsuperscript{4} Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, zesp. Min. Wyznań i Oświaty, 50u.
the same century, after lengthy efforts on the part of Lwów intellectual circles, doctors and teachers, a Medical Faculty was finally reinstated at Lwów University. Since, at the beginning, the new faculty was lacking in teaching staff, the organisers of the Medical Faculty would generally recruit young scholars to Lwów who would be more likely to stay there for longer periods to have time to set up their own reseach stations and establish their own scientific schools. Among them was Antoni Gluziński and several of his friends from Kraków including Prof. Ludwik Rydygier — a surgeon¹, and Prof. Władysław Bylicki — a gynaecologist and obstetrician².

Antoni Gluziński stayed in Lwów for 21 years. He lectured there in the diagnosis and treatment of internal diseases and nervous disorders and established an excellent school of scientific and clinic practice. Already then, he was considered a leading Polish internist, as was reflected in his nomination to the post of Dean of the Medical Faculty (1898/1899), Rector (1905/1906) and Pro-rector (1906–1908).

Antoni Gluziński developed exceptionally energetic social and organisational initiatives in Lwów. First of all, at the beginning he established a modern Clinic of Internal Medicine and contributed a great deal to the erection of an Academic House which was opened in 1906. In 1904, he co-founded the Association for the Fight against Tuberculosis. He made an enormous contribution in this field, especially as the author of a large project for countering this disease in what used to be the Austrian partition. His personal achievement was the planning and financing of common health resorts for Tuberculosis sufferers. In May 1908, his efforts culminated in the establishment of the first Polish anti-tuberculosis surgery in Lwów. It was also thanks to him that the Chair of General and Experimental Pathology was taken up by Edmund Biernacki, a consultant (ward director) of the Internal Medicine Ward in the Infectious Diseases Hospital in the Wola district of Warsaw³, whom he gave his decided support⁴. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, he gave financial aid and helped Doctor Kazimierz Dłuski⁵ to establish an anti-Tuberculosis health resort in Zakopane⁶.

When Józef Brudziński took to re-establishing the Polish University of

¹ Ludwik Rydygier (1850–1920), prof. of surgery at UJ (1887–94) and Lwów University (1894–1920), co-founder of world's gastric surgery, 16 XI 1880 carried out the first stomach resectioning operation to be written up in the world.

² Władysław Bylicki (1846–1931), prof. of gynaecology and obstetrics at Lwów University (1907–20), wrote up a surgical method of treating bladder — vagina fistula.

³ Edmund Biernacki (1866–1911), ward director at the Wolski Hospital in Warsaw (1897–1902) and prof. of general pathology at Lwów University (1902–1911), in 1894 he described the symptom of numbing of the ulnar nerve in spinal nerve tabes dorsalis and in 1897 he introduced the correlation between the rate of decrease of red blood cells and type of pathology into medical diagnostics. Cf. B. Uniśkiewicz, Sources of Controversy in Blood Sedimentation Tests. Perspectives of the Edmund Biernacki’s Method in: Organon 31, 2002, pp. 149–164.


⁵ Kazimierz Dłuski (1855–1930), a socialist activist and phthisiatrist, initiator and director of the first Polish anti tuberculosis health resort in Kościeliska near Zakopane, from 1914 he supported the formation of Piłsudski’s legions.

Warsaw almost from scratch in 1915, Antoni Glużiński, spurred on by patriotic duty, also moved to the Capital. Since there was no academic staff in Warsaw nor any equipment, and the buildings and university quarters were in disrepair, one can speak of Antoni Glużiński’s situation in Lwów being repeated. He took to organising an academic and research centre for a third time, this time establishing the Second Clinic of Internal Diseases virtually from scratch, and provided it with good accommodation, finding good solutions to various administrative problems and creating the possibility of conducting serious scientific research. From 1919 to 1927, he was the director of the 2nd Chair and Clinic of Internal Diseases of Warsaw University. As a Professor of Internal Medicine, he lectured in specific pathology, diagnostics and the treatment of internal diseases. In 1920/1921, he was the Dean of the Medical Faculty at this University.

In the inter-war period, Antoni Glużiński enjoyed the greatest authority among Polish internists. The authorities of Warsaw University would proudly emphasise that it was precisely at this institution that his life’s work came to a culmination. Hence, when he retired in 1927, the authorities of the University Senate conferred to him the distinction of honorary professor of the University of Warsaw.

In October of the same year, to mark his 70th birthday, a commemorative medal was struck in his honour according to the design of Józef Aumiller and a plaque was unveiled in the lecture hall of the Second Clinic of Internal Diseases at the University of Warsaw named after him. The 43rd issue of the Polska Gazeta Lekarska was dedicated to his person and included articles by renowned scholars and Polish, French, Austrian, Hungarian and Czech doctors. Among them were the best European clinicians including Emil Charles Achard who co-discovered the paratyphoid infective agent and pioneer of clinical kidney tests and Baron Sandor Koranyi, a professor of the University of Budapest and one of the leading experts in renal function of the time.

Antoni Glużiński died on 10th April 1935 in Warsaw1.

He had five children from his marriage with Zofia Sokołowska. His oldest son – Tadeusz Walery (alias Henryk Rolicki) was a lawyer, radical-nationalist journalist and one of the ideologues of the radical nationalist camp. The only one to have followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather to become a doctor was his younger son, Lech, who died in the First World War in Dzwidowo near Lwów. His third son, Kazimierz Franciszek, was a lawyer and the general secretary of the head office of the Wspólnota Interesów mines in Katowice. His older daughter, Maria, became the wife of dr Zdzisław Szczepański and his younger daughter, Janina, a singer, married a renowned Polish literary figure, Kornel Makuszyński2.

Glużiński belonged to a number of Polish and foreign academic corporations of which first and foremost was the Polish Academy of Arts and

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2 Cf. W. Szumowski, Glużiński Władysław Antoni in: Polski Słownik Biograficzny, t. 8, p. 86.
Sciences (PAU) in which he was an active member since 1930. In 1929, the University of Stefan Batory in Vilnius awarded him a *honoris causa* doctorate. Before the First World War, he chaired the Kraków Medical Association (1891–1892) and the Lwów Medical Association (1899–1900), and since 1915 he was an honorary member of the Poznań Society of Arts and Friends of Sciences. In the inter-war period he became a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences (1920)¹ and the chairman (1922–1924) and permanent secretary (1924–1928) of the Warsaw Medical Association. In 1921, he was awarded the Commandor Cross of the *Polonia Restituta* Order and in 1932 he was awarded the two highest Yugoslav distinctions: the great sash of the Order of St Sava and the great sash of the White Eagle Order; he was also a commander of the Czechoslovakian Order of the White Lion.

Apart from medicine, Antoni Gluziński was interested in history and biography (he gave lectures and published articles on the subject e. g. on Baraniecki² in 1925). He had an enormous private book collection, he was an expert in the philosophical trends of Polish medicine and would readily read the works of Biernacki³ and Biegański⁴.

The writings of Antoni Gluziński are impressive in their breadth although he belonged to a generation of physicians whose knowledge, interests, scientific breakthroughs and clinical practice covered many fields of internal medicine. He was a pioneer of Polish gastroenterology, he was a renowned lung doctor and he had significant achievements in haematology and nephrology. In his numerous works, he would take the newest achievements of the particular sciences into account especially in what concerned the pathological physiology of the urinary system, blood circulation, and neurohormonal regulation. He was also considered an authority in what concerned laboratory diagnostics of infectious diseases and general pathology.

Gluziński was an exceptionally gifted doctor with a broad education and exhibited exceptional precision in medical examinations and an exemplary manner in relation to his patients. Many remembered him as the most experienced doctor among all Polish physicians since Tytus Chałubiński⁵. He had the extraordinary gift of noticing the slightest details which were often decisive as to the final diagnosis. An often repeated anecdote recalls how, one day, during his morning round in a Warsaw Clinic he entered a large ward of patients (over a dozen beds), and after a single glance immediately asked:

¹ He co-organised it together with Sz. Dzierzgowski and S. Bądzyński. Cf. S. Dąbrowski, *Dzierzgowski Szymon* in: Polski Słownik Biograficzny, t. 6, p. 150.
² Adrian Baraniecki (1828–1891), a doctor and social activist, established the Technical–Industrial museum in Kraków and trade courses for young people and the first Polish higher course for women.
³ Edmund Biernacki: see footnote 3 on page 3.
⁵ Tytus Chałubiński (1820–1889), an outstanding physician and naturalist, acting in Warsaw and in Podhale (south Poland), professor of specific therapy and internal diseases at Main School of Warsaw (1862–1869).
Who put that Typhus case over there by the window?\textsuperscript{1} Witold Ziembicki\textsuperscript{2}, a physicist and renowned historian of medicine, a Lwów pupil of Gluźniński, would emphasise that as a professor he cared for a logical style of clinical diagnosis and gave great importance to collaboration with pathological anatomy\textsuperscript{3}.

He was a strict and demanding doctor and professor in relation to himself and to others. He was very principled in basic matters: he represented the old medical school which treated internal medicine as a whole – both in clinical practice and in teaching. He maintained that one could only become a good physician after many years of study, work and practice under the supervision of seasoned doctors. Thus he also recognised the great importance and role to be played by medical authorities.

Perhaps precisely this position of his was the reason behind the much publicised conflict at the UW Medical Faculty between him and the new star of Warsaw medicine, the founder of the next great Warsaw school of internal medicine – Witold Eugeniusz Orłowski\textsuperscript{4}. Gluźniński was opposed to the candidacy of Zdzisław Gorecki\textsuperscript{5} which was put forward by Orłowski for the First Chair and Clinic of Internal Medicine of the University of Warsaw but his opposition was in vain, and, what is more, largely unfair\textsuperscript{6}.

As a teacher, Gluźniński placed his emphasis on diligent and detailed clinical investigation as the basis of diagnosis and treated laboratory tests as helpful supplements. He was a great speaker and excellent lecturer, though he would never prepare his lectures. They were based, however, on his great breadth of experience, gift of speaking, clarity of thought, sometimes a pinch of humour and well chosen comparisons and plasticity of imagery, as his pupil, the later professor of internal medicine in Warsaw, Zdzisław Gorecki\textsuperscript{7} recalled.

He educated many excellent physicians in the three major academic centres. In Kraków, among others, Ludwik Fischer and Roman Rencki grew under his eyes and his Lwów school included Wincenty Czerniecki, Marian Franke, Jan Grek, Juliusz Marischler, Kazimierz Orzechowski, Marian Panczyszyn, Antoni Sabatowski, Henryk Sochański, Zdzisław Tomaszewski, Wi-

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\textsuperscript{1} On the spoken word of R. Dzierzanowski.

\textsuperscript{2} Witold Ziembicki (1874–1950), physician and historian of medicine, professor of history and philosophy of medicine at Lwów University (1934–36) and Wrocław University (1946–49), initiated Polish studies into so-called historical medicine, i.e. a medical contribution to our rendering of historical events.

\textsuperscript{3} Medycyna 1/1928, p. 32.

\textsuperscript{4} Witold Eugeniusz Orłowski (1874–1966), prof. of general medical diagnostics at Kazan University (1907–1918) and prof. of internal diseases at UJ (1919–1925), UW (1925–1947) and Instytut Doskonalenia i Kształcenia Kadr Naukowych in Warsaw (1956–1960), established the largest Polish school of internal medicine, authored a theory suggesting biochemical, as well as haemodynamic, explanations of chronic circulatory problems and wrote an original eight volume textbook: Nauka o chorobach wewnętrznych.

\textsuperscript{5} Zdzisław Gorecki (1895–1944), prof. of internal diseases at UW (1935–44), his main works concerned lung diseases and granulomatosis maligna, he died from heavy wounds incurred in the Warsaw Rising in an insurgent hospital.

\textsuperscript{6} Medycyna 8/1935, pp. 257–259.

\textsuperscript{7} Medycyna 23/1935, pp. 749–757.
Antoni Gluziński was the main founder and active member of the Association of Polish Physicians (until 1923 known as the Association of Physicians of the Polish Lands). In 1909, it was he who organised the 1st Congress of Physicians of the Polish Lands in Kraków. He also organised and chaired the Congress of Polish Physicians in Vilnius in 1925 – at which time he stepped down from the post of Chairman of the Association which he had led since 1907. The Association showed its gratitude to Gluziński by conferring honorary membership on him in 1926. In 1923–1924, he was also the editor in chief of its publication – Polskie Archiwum Medycyny Wewnętrznej.

Antoni Gluziński also contributed to the founding of the Union of Slav Doctors and to drawing up its statutes(1926). He was made honorary president of the Union of Slav Doctors (1927–1935) and given honorary membership of the Medical Associations of Belgrade, Zagreb and Prague for his achievements in the area of collaboration between doctors of the countries of South and Eastern Europe. In 1929, Gluziński led the Polish delegation to the Pan-Slavic Congress of the Yugoslav Medical Association in Dubrownik; it must be added here that among all Polish doctors, he was the best tailored for this role.

In his Kraków period, Antoni Gluziński’s achievements in stomach and bowel pathology are now considered the most important among his contributions. Besides Walery Jaworski and Mikołaj Reichman – he is counted among the pioneers of Polish gastrology. Though in what concerned medical clinical practice, he was foremost a pupil of Eduard Korczyński who was largely a cardiologist, it was this subject matter that his work from his Kraków days concentrated on.

Antoni Gluziński’s first publication was Sprawozdanie z kliniki lekarskiej prof. dra. Korczyńskiego z lat czterech ... Choroby Układu nerwowego, on Nervous System disorders which appeared in 1880, but his two later publications which he co-authored with Walery Jaworski concerned a method for sampling the contents of the stomach using the so called protein breakfast as a stimulus (Nowy przyczynek do sposobów badania żołądka) and determined

2 Walery Jaworski (1849–1924), prof. of internal diseases at UJ (1906–1919), one of the founders – alongside M. Reichman and A. Gluziński – of Polish gastrology, discovered Vibrio rugula bacteria in stomach mucous, the same as Helicobacter pylori, identified hyper-acidic stomach disease as a separate disease unit. In 1900 he established the first European museum of history of medicine at the Medical faculty of UJ and authored a monograph entitled: Zarys patologii i terapii chorób żołądka (1889).
3 Mikołaj Reichman (1851–1918), a private practitioner in Warsaw (until the end of the eighties) and one of the founders – alongside W. Jaworski and A. Gluziński – of Polish gastrology, in 1883 he described a syndrome of excess secretion of stomach juices which is known in world literature as Reichman’s disease.
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physiological parameters for stomach pH and demonstrated that the actual physiological process of digestion took place in the lesser intestines (*De l’hypersecretion et de l’hyperacidité du suc gastrique*). In this last work, the authors altered the contemporary clinical thinking about the treatment of stomach disorders. Moreover, they introduced a classification of stomach disorders based on the extent and type of secretions\(^2\). His joint work with Mikołaj Buzdygan from 1891 on *Zachowaniu się trawienia żołądkowego w różnych postaciach niedokrwistości, a szczególnie w błędnicy*\(^3\), considered similar matters and demonstrated a link between chlorosis and disorders of bowel absorption. His publications based on his work in the Department of General and Experimental Pathology at the Jagiellonian University were purely experimental in character. In *O wpływie podwiązania tętnic wieńcowych na narząd nerwowo-ruchowy serca*\(^4\) he described the total blockage of heart activity on experimental occlusion of the coronary arteries. Together with Adolf Beck, the then associate professor of the Chair of Physiology at the Jagiellonian University and one of the pioneers of world neurophysiology, he demonstrated in 1895 that by occluding the nephrons and thus compromising the excretion of urine by the kidneys, the excretion of water is increased and the secretion of urea and chlorine is decreased\(^5\). In addition, two books of his authorship came from this period: the textbooks *Patologia ogólna* (1895)\(^6\) and *Zarys ogólnej patologii i terapii gorączki* (1896)\(^7\).

In his Lwów period, in his first significant work entitled *Nowa próba na barwki żółciowe*\(^8\), he described a novel formaline test for detection of bile pigments. He then reverted to his pathophysiological interests in endocrinological research – this was just after the first ground-breaking research by Napoleon N. Cybulski\(^9\) in Kraków which started off research into internal secretions. In his work, authored together with Ignatius Lemberg in 1896, *O wpływie podwiązania tętnic wieńcowych (art. coron. cordis sinistra) na narząd nerwowo-ruchowy serca* in: *Rozprawy AU Wydział Matematyczno-Przyrodniczy*, ser. 2, t. 9 (29), 1895, pp. 330–348.\(^5\)

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9. Napoleon Nikodem Cybulski (1854–1919), prof. of physiology UJ (1895–1919), founder of the Cracau and Polish physiology schools, in 1885 he was one of the first in the world to use a photohaematometer he constructed himself to register and describe the velocity of linear bloodflow, in 1891 he constructed a genuine microcalorimeter to measure minimal amounts of heat produces in skeletal muscle, and in 1895 – independently from G. Oliver and E. Schafer – he described the characteristic physiological effects of intravenous administration of extracts from the core adrenal glands and demonstrated the active secretion of substances to be found there (adrenaline i. e. epinephrine) which regulate the physiological responses of the organism.
wpływie braku gruczołu tarczykowego w organizmie zwierzęcym na wymianę materii... — Gluziński demonstrated that in animals with a positive nitrogen balance (i.e. young animals), the removal of the thyroid leads to a significant increase in the breakdown of protein and a slight increase in the breakdown of lipid bodies and leads to a decrease in erythrocyte counts in the peripheral circulation. These results were significant for the treatment of certain types of thyroid deficiencies. The subject appeared to him so interesting that in 1899 he wrote a monographical article about the significance of internal secretions for pathology and therapy. This is believed to be the first such full description of the research into and importance of internal secretions and the activity of glands and their secretions in scientific literature in the world. One of Gluziński’s best known achievements from the time was his work Myeloma i leukaemia lymphatica (plasmocellularis) which he published together with Reichenstein in 1907. In it, the authors presented the first detailed clinical description of plasma-cell leukaemia to have been published in the world. Unfortunately, nowadays Western authors (and sometimes also Polish ones) fail to cite the names of Polish authors in publications on the subject. Whilst still in Lwów, he returned to his previous research into nephrology, though this time markedly nearer clinical practice. In his work – Przyczynek do tak zwanej przeze mnie mocznicy bezchlorowej (1913) — he explained the significance of a negative chlorate balance for the development of symptoms found in uraemia-like kidney disorders.

In his Warsaw period, he published less since he concentrated more on organisational and didactic activities.

In the area of lung medicine, he wrote on the differentiation between lung syphilis and lung tuberculosis and demonstrated that syphilitic changes in the heart are more often encountered in tertiary rather than secondary syphilis. He was also interested in internal disorders concerning other pathologies such as venereal diseases. In two of his works from 1933 roku — Marskość wątroby a kiła and Żółtaczka i ostry żółty zanik wątroby na tle kiły — he described the lack of digestive system symptoms in syphilitic jaundice, demonstrated the

3 A. Gluziński, M. Reichenstein, Myeloma i leukaemia lymphatica (plasmocellularis) in: Polskie Archiwum Nauk Biologicznych i Lekarskich 3, 1907, pp. 181–211.
7 A. Gluziński, Żółtaczka (icterus) i ostry żółty zanik wątroby (atrophia hepatis acuta flava) na tle kiły (syphilis) in: Medycyna 2/1933, pp. 45–49.
parenchymal character of its early stages and gave methods for diagnosing the co-existence of syphilis, atrophy cirrhosis of Laënc and hypertrophy cirrhosis of Hanot.

Apart from publishing in Polish journals (including Rocznik AU in Kraków, Pamiętnik Wydziału Matematyczno–Przyrodniczego AU in Kraków, the Kraków Przegląd Lekarski, and the Warsaw Medycyna), he published mainly in German and Austrian periodicals (Berliner klinische Wochenschrift, Zeitschrift für klinische Medicin, Deutsches Archiv für klinische Medicin and Wiener klinische Wochenschrift).