The history of laboratory medicine in Poland started in 1953 when the first consultant in this discipline was appointed by the Minister of Health. This position was given to professor of medicine Gregory Bagdasarian. The first organizational structure was the newly formed in 1962 Section of Medical Analytics at the Polish Medical Society. This Section was chaired by prof. Zdzislaw Stolzman. According to the Statute of Polish Medical Society only physicians working in the medical laboratories could apply for a membership of the Section. These times physicians constituted approximately 15% of all employees at medical laboratories.

The main idea of the President of the Section was to establish a scientific organization joining together all different specialities engaged in the field of laboratory medicine. Finally, in October 3rd 1964 in Jelenia Gora the Section of Medical Analytics was transformed into Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics. As the first President of the Society prof. Jerzy Krawczynski was elected and held this position for the next 12ve years. The next presidents were: Prof. S. Angielski, prof. J. Janecki, prof. J. Sznajd, prof. A. Marczyńska, prof. J.Prokopowic, prof. A. Brzezinski, prof. D. Bobilewicz, prof. M. Paradowski, prof. D. Sitkiewicz.

Main task of the new Society was to broaden the knowledge on the recent worldwide progress in laboratory medicine and to raise the level of the professional qualifications and skills of the members and all those engaged in laboratory medicine in Poland. Among the members of the Polish Society there were several famous scientists, University teachers, regional and country consultants.

The President’s and the Executive Board term lasts 3 years. The current President of the Society is prof. Bogdan Solnica (Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University Krakow, second term). Currently, Executive board includes three vice-presidents: prof. Milena Dabrowska (Medical University Białystok), prof. Grazyna Sypniewska (Collegium Medicum, NC University Bydgoszcz) and prof. Maciej Szmitek (Medical University Białystok). The most important meetings of the Society are Scientific Congresses organized every 3 years, always with international participation. In between the smaller meetings are organized mostly of educational-scientific character. The number of active members of the Society accounts for around 500 persons but fluctuates from time to time; actually every fifth person working in the medical laboratory is a member of the Society.

Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics is represented by 17teen regional branches located in the biggest cities in Poland. The regional branches also organize educational meetings and conferences. The most active centers of the Society are located at 12ve Medical Universities in Poland and they actively participate in international congresses and conferences presenting oral communications and posters.

The official journal of the Society is called Diagnostyka Laboratoryjna/Journal of Laboratory Diagnostics which publishes articles in Polish and in English. Prof. Jan K Kulpa is the current Editor-in-chief. The official website of the Polish Society is www.ptdl.pl

Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics closely cooperates with Polish Medical Associations such as Polish Diabetes Society, Polish Society for Oncology, Polish Society of Cardiology. Moreover the Society has a very good cooperation with the Polish National Chamber of Diagnosticians.

Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics is a full member of IFCC from 1969 and a full member of EFLM. The former IFCC National Representative was prof. Maciej Szmitek but from 2001 this position was given to prof. Grazyna Sypniewska. She was elected by IFCC EB in 2006 a member of IFCC Communication and Publication Division and from 2007 – Editor-in-chief of eJournal IFCC. Prof. Sypniewska stepped-down from this function in 2011.
Poland (prof. G. Sypniewska) is also represented in the Editorial board of several international scientific journals: CCLM, Clinical Biochemistry, Biochemia Medica and J Med Biochemistry.

Polish representative had a privilege to chair scientific sessions during several Euromedlab Congresses: Prague, Amsterdam, Innsbruck, Berlin and next year in Paris. There were more representatives of Polish Society in different IFCC Working Groups: prof. Jerzy Naskalski, Magdalena Krintus PhD (Committee for Public Relations at CPD). Members of the Polish Society are also active in the EFLM structures. Prof. Sypniewska has been elected in 2013 a Member at Large of EFLM EB; Joanna Siodmiak PhD has got a position of Young Scientist in the EFLM WG Patient Focused Laboratory Medicine, prof. Milena Dabrowska has been included as a corresponding member to WG on Laboratory Medicine Profession.

Among the Honorary members of the Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics there are several famous representatives of laboratory medicine from different countries in the world such as: prof. Gerard Siest, prof. Walter Guder, prof. Vladimir Palicka, prof. Victor Blaton, prof. Elizabeta Topic. Some members of the Polish Society were invited to present lectures during Congresses and conferences in Europe, China, South America.

In September 1991 Poland hosted the 9th European Congress of Clinical Chemistry organized in Cracow under the auspices of IFCC. The main organizer was prof. Jan Sznajd, President of the Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics. Over two thousands participants from 34 different countries in the world took part in 17 scientific sessions and 25 workshops. In 2016, 25 years later, Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics will host the 4th EFLM-UEMS congress "Laboratory medicine at the clinical interface" which will be organized in Warsaw at 21-24th September.

In February 2015 Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics celebrated its 50th anniversary. The conference was held in Kielce and we were proud to host the Honorary Special Guests: IFCC President prof. Maurizio Ferrari and EFLM President prof. Mauro Panteghini among several others Polish diagnosticians of older and new generation.

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