



**III Międzynarodowa  
Konferencja OA**

**III Międzynarodowa Konferencja Open Access w Polsce  
„Otwarta nauka i edukacja”**

13-14 marca 2012, Bydgoszcz, Polska

**III International Conference Open Access in Poland  
“Open learning and education”**

March 13-14, 2012, Bydgoszcz, Poland

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### **The beginnings of the telemedicine in the Kujawy-Pomerania Province**

The first transmission which used the system of telecardiology was done on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2003. The establishing and preparation of the systems for telemedicine began almost two years earlier. In 2002, in the Kujawy-Pomerania Province, there was only one invasive cardiovascular laboratory on round-the-clock duty. Therefore the main problem was the time of ambulance arrival with the patient to the laboratory. In some cases of cardiovascular failure, the most effective methods of treatment are only possible to use right after recognizing the symptoms.

Another problem, also concerning time, was a consultation with a cardiac surgeon regarding a patient who already had a coronary angiogram. The need for establishing two main systems was noticed:

- a system for wireless transmission of ECG from the moving ICU van to the invasive cardiovascular laboratory, which allows to qualify the patient as an emergency,
- a system for transmission of medical, imaging and health informatics data, which allows to shorten the waiting time between a coronary angiogram and possible qualification for cardiac surgery treatment.

The establishing of the system for telecardiology began in the Department of Cardiology and Internal Medicine of the Collegium Medicum (Katedra i Klinika Kardiologii i Chorób Wewnętrznych Collegium Medicum) at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Bydgoszcz, led by Professor Jacek Kubica MD, PhD. Other members of the establishing team include: Grzegorz Grześk MD, PhD, from the same department, and Krystyna Nowak from the newly established telecommunication operator Kujawsko-Pomorska Sieć Informacyjna, who was responsible for providing the broadband connection.

Today, the system is one of the tools used by doctors on a daily basis. The resulting considerable shortening of the time between reaching a patient and beginning of their treatment had impact on raising the effectiveness of treatment, lowering the mortality rate and lowering the number of complications.

### **Biography**

He is a cardiologist, a specialist in internal medicine and in clinical pharmacology. He works in Collegium Medicum of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Bydgoszcz in the Cardiology and Internal Medicine Clinic, he also holds the position of a chief of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Prof. Grzegorz Grześk is a regional consultant in the field of clinical pharmacology. He is also one of the inventors of telemedicine systems in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship.