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Editorial: Medical and Social Side of the Ageing Process

Although aging is a natural process, and old age is one of the periods of human life, the contemporary demographic aging process is a new phenomenon.

Extension of life, being a consequence of rapidly developing medicine, and, on the other hand, the decline in birth figures and constant migration – have lead to an increase in the number of elderly people. In Poland in the past 25 years, the life expectancy has increased by 6 years, and currently in our country is inhabited by more than 5.5 million people over 65 and 1.3 million people over 80 years of age.

The aging process is observed with more and more attention in Poland, Europe and the world. Seniority does not have to be a time of contemplation of age and affirmation of old age, but it is to be time filled with content that makes it valuable and worth living.

The process of demographic aging of populations reveals the urgent need to undertake, and promote activities for the elderly, which would result in improved quality of life not only through the provision of care and support to seniors, but also the promotion of healthy, successful aging in many areas of everyday life.

Successful, multidimensional aging, and the sustainability of health and social care is a major challenge for the social welfare system, and therefore the need to educate 21st century gerontology specialists. The interdisciplinarity of the science dealing with aging and old age, multifaceted nature of these phenomena, and need to deal with the processes and social phenomena related to aging and the aging of individuals and society, have become the reason forces behind this issue of the magazine "Horyzonty Wychowania" is devoted to the topic of old age and aging. As Jonathan Swift said, "Everyone wants to live forever, but nobody wants to grow old."

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theme issue editor