



**COVID-19 ADVISORY TEAM**  
**THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

Jerzy Duszynski, PAS President  
May 2022

The Interdisciplinary **COVID-19 Advisory Team**  
established at PAS on **June 30, 2020** to:

- **monitor** the course of the COVID-19 epidemic in Poland,
- **analyze and predict** its possible scenarios,
- put forward **recommendations**,
- **develop contacts** with similar teams in other countries to exchange experience.

65 meetings

29 position  
statements

no remuneration  
for services



**Prof. Jerzy Duszynski**, PhD, DSc, **Biochemistry**, PAS President, Chair

**Prof. Krzysztof Pyrc**, PhD, DSc, **Virology**, Jagiellonian University, Deputy Chair

**Anna Plater-Zyberk**, PhD, **Anthropology**, PAS, Team's Secretary



**Aneta Afelt, PhD, [Geography](#), Warsaw University**

**Prof. Malgorzata Kossowska, [Psychology](#), Jagiellonian University**

**Prof. Radoslaw Owczuk, MD, PhD, DSc, [Anesthesiology](#), Medical University of Gdansk**

**Anna Ochab-Marcinek, PhD, DSc, [Physics](#), PAS Institute of Physical Chemistry**

**Wojtek Paczos, PhD, [Economy](#), University of Cardiff**

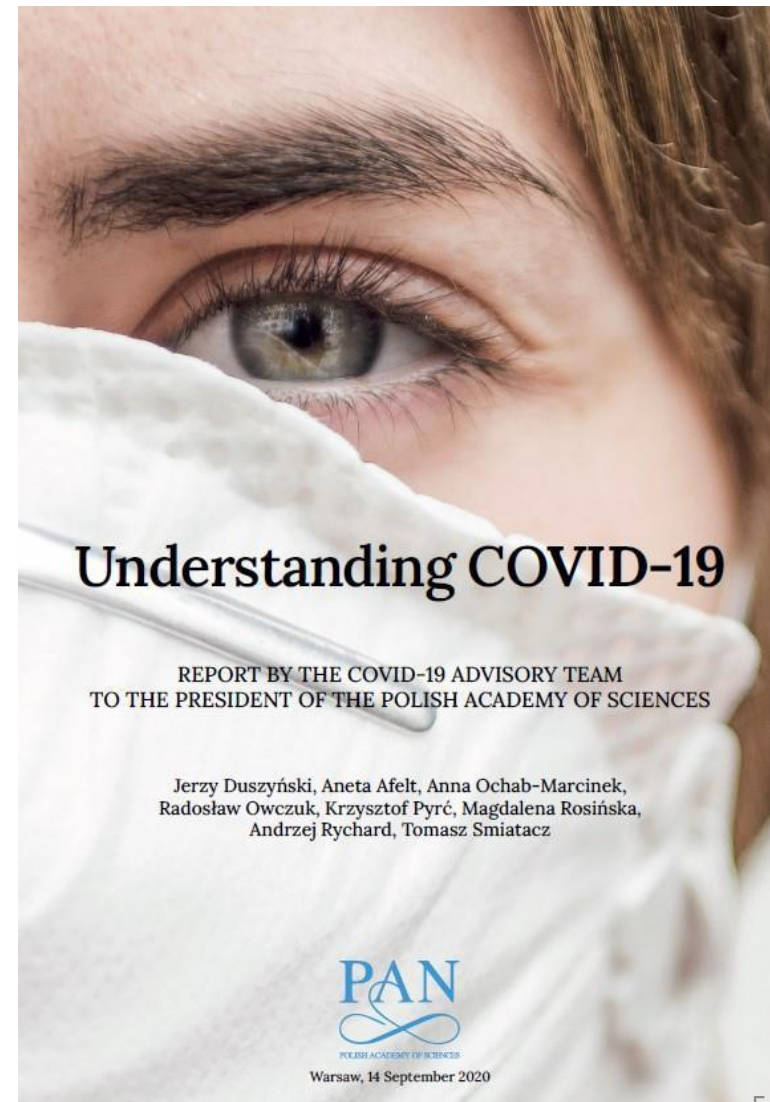
**Prof. Magdalena Rosinska, MD, PhD, DSc, [Epidemiology](#), NIH – National Institute of Hygiene**

**Prof. Andrzej Rychard, PhD, DSc, [Sociology](#), PAS Institute of Philosophy and Sociology**

**Tomasz Smiatacz, MD, PhD, DSc, [Infectious Diseases](#), Medical University of Gdansk**

## Understanding COVID-19

Report of the COVID-19  
Advisory Team published  
on September 14, 2020

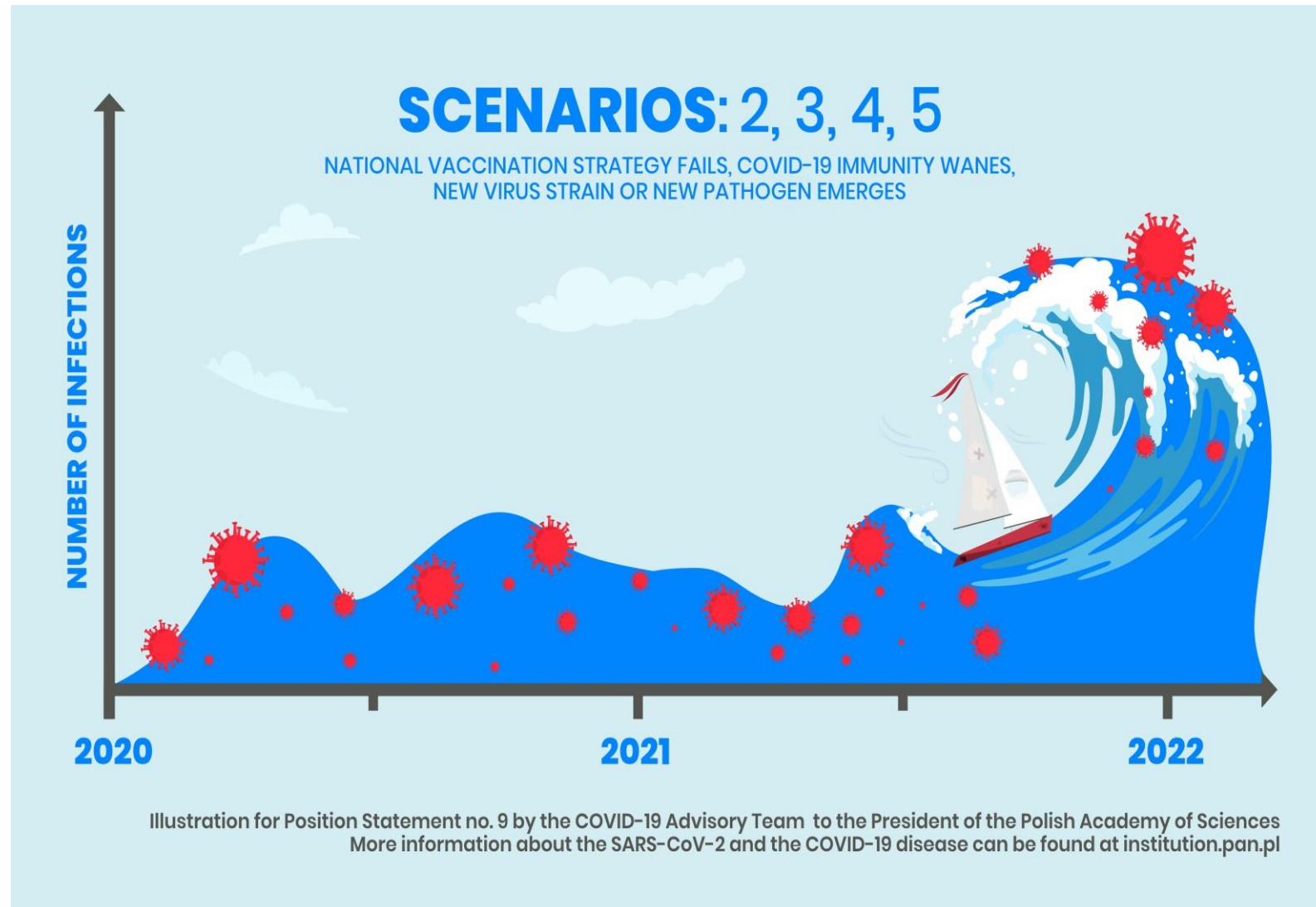




## Scenarios for 2021 (Jan. 5, 2021):

1. Poland's National COVID-19 Vaccination Program **will be** successfully completed in 2021.
2. Poland's COVID-19 Vaccination Program **will not be** successfully implemented in 2021.
3. **Resistance** to COVID-19, acquired through vaccination in 2021, **will disappear** after a short time.
4. In 2021, a **variety of SARS-CoV-2** will emerge which will **not be fought by the immune responses** caused by the COVID-19 vaccine.
5. In the coming years, perhaps even in 2021, we will be attacked by a completely **new pathogen**.

## SCENARIOS FOR THE PANDEMIC



## SCENARIOS FOR THE PANDEMIC - CONCLUSIONS:

- 1. Efficient institutions.** We need to prepare ourselves institutionally for new epidemic threats. Poland should have a multidisciplinary expert institution monitoring the global epidemic situation, closely cooperating with organizations such as the WHO (World Health Organization) or ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control).
- 2. Science.** We need to bolster science in Poland and public trust in it. It is fearful to think of how the COVID-19 pandemic would have gone without science – how many victims there would have been, how great the losses would have been in Poland and worldwide. Only by taking scientific knowledge into account are we able to act rationally in the face of such a threat.
- 3. Cooperation and responsibility.** Coping with an epidemiological threat requires all of us to cooperate and behave responsibly. This is the only way to avoid unnecessary human and economic casualties.

## LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC:

### Strengthen health care, invest in science and education and build trust (March 22, 2021)

#### **I. Robust and independent institutions are needed**

- 1: Invest in modern health care
- 2: Build professional and independent expert institutions in the field of public health
- 3: Provide experts with access to data
- 4: Invest in science and education

#### **II. A solidary-based society is needed**

- 5: Build trust
- 6: Work together for the common good
- 7: Learn to live with the pandemic
- 8: Make political choices with long-term goals in mind



## COVID-19 Advisory Team to the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences

### About the team

The Interdisciplinary COVID-19 Advisory Team to the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences was set up on 30 June 2020. The team is chaired by Prof. Jerzy Duszyński, President of the PAS, with Prof. Krzysztof Pyrc (Jagiellonian University) as deputy chair and Dr. Anna Plater-Zyberk (Polish Academy of Sciences) as its secretary. Other members of the team are:

- Dr. Aneta Afelt (University of Warsaw)
- Prof. Małgorzata Kossowska (Jagiellonian University)
- Prof. Radosław Owczuk, MD (Medical University of Gdańsk)
- Dr. Anna Ochab-Marcinek (PAS Institute of Physical Chemistry)
- Dr. Wojciech Paczos (PAS Institute of Economics, Cardiff University)
- Dr. Magdalena Rosińska, MD (National Institute of Public Health NIH – National Research Institute)
- Prof. Andrzej Rychard (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology PAN),
- Dr. Tomasz Smiatcz, MD (Medical University of Gdańsk)

<https://institution.pan.pl/index.php/covid-19-advisory-team>



## In 2020:

- 1:** Pandemic denial is shameful and unethical - Aug. 10
- 2:** On students returning to school in September 2020 - Aug. 19
- 3:** Urgent Appeal on the Ongoing COVID-19 Crisis - Oct. 12
- 4:** COVID-19 Advisory Team Position Statement on the dangers of trusting in herd immunity - Oct. 27
- 5:** COVID-19 Advisory Team Position Statement on the need of strategy for managing the pandemic in times of social unrest - Nov. 3
- 6:** COVID-19 Advisory Team Position Statement on the need to change testing strategy - Nov. 17
- 7:** COVID-19 Advisory Team: Vaccination is the only rational solution which will help us defeat the pandemic - Dec. 15
- 8:** On 21 December 2020, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) announced its evaluation of the vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech – called Comirnaty – as safe for humans and effective in preventing COVID-19 - Dec. 22

## In 2021:

- 9:** Scenarios for 2021 and comments - Jan. 5
- 10:** Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the mental health and education of children and adolescent - Jan. 25
- 11:** Understanding the vaccine – the individual perspective - Feb. 10
- 12:** The new normal – There will be no quick return to the pre-pandemic world - Mar. 2
- 13:** Lessons from the pandemic: strengthen health care, invest in science and education, and build trust - Mar. 22
- 14:** The morality of vaccination – On vector vaccines - Apr. 19
- 15:** The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on selected minority groups in Poland - May 11
- 16:** Between one wave and another; the current lull should not cause us to relax our vigilance – July 9
- 17:** An appeal regarding the upcoming 2021–2022 school year – July 20
- 18:** Public communication during the pandemic – transparency and responsibility – July 29
- 19:** A voice on the issue of mandatory SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations – Aug. 02

- 20:** A call for urgent and consistent implementation of VMT procedures in schools – ventilation, masks, testing – Sep. 06
- 21:** Broader data access crucial for the fight against the pandemic to be effective – Sep. 16
- 22:** A third dose – is the third time indeed the charm? – Oct. 08
- 23:** COVID-19 Across Borders – Joint Statement of the COVID-19 teams of the PAS and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine – Oct. 26
- 24:** Appeal of the COVID-19 Advisory Team urging booster vaccinations – Nov. 12
- 25:** Omicron – a new variant of SARS-CoV-2 – Nov. 27
- 26:** What we can learn from those who have responded best to the pandemic? - Dec. 08
- 27:** Omicron is a threat to each one of us – Dec. 21

**In 2022:**

**28:** Omikron strikes – save yourself and your country – Jan. 24

**29:** Low vaccination rates in Poland are harming the economy – Feb. 14

**30:** Now We Are Together

**31:** Is it significant that the end of the pandemic in Poland was announced on April Fool's Day?