

Obituary

The ESS family is heartbroken and deeply mourning the recent passing of one of its dear members, Dr. Tomasz Skirecki (37).

Tomek was an ESS member since 2013 and served as an ESS Council member since 2015.



Tomek was a Polish MD, PhD, anesthesiologist and scientist, professor in the Medical Center of Postgraduate Education (MCPE) in Warsaw, Poland, and Head of the Department of Translational Immunology and Experimental Intensive Care at MCPE (www.cmkp.edu.pl). He simultaneously worked as clinician at the National Medical Institute Hospital (www.gov.pl/web/ckmswia-en) in Warsaw.

His scientific contributions to the field of sepsis pathophysiology are admirable despite his relatively young age; he authored nearly 50 peer-reviewed publications, including *Lancet Resp Med*, *Blue Journal*, and *Shock*. In 2014, for his PhD thesis, Tomek received an Excellence Award from the Prime Minister of Poland. Tomek was the recipient of several inter/national research grants (e.g. OPUS, SONATA, CEUS, Polpharma Foundation). In 2017, he received the Austrian Günther-Schlag Award recognizing Outstanding Early Career Scientists in Translational Research, and in 2020, he was honored as an Outstanding Young Scientist by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Tomek collaborated with many members of the ESS family (and beyond), which underlines his love for smart teamwork and is reflected in his several professional memberships (e.g. EGIS, ISICM, SLB) and scientific works, which include top authors from all over the world. Tomek's expertise was a unique blend of clinical knowledge and basic biological skills, which flowed smoothly into his many original ideas, published papers and/or experiments - too many of which will now remain unfinished.

However, his value should not be defined by the number of citations and/or the caliber of his publications, but by the measure that should ultimately be most relevant to all of us: a human kindness and gentleness. In addition to his brilliant, inquisitive mind, Tomek was above all a warm, emphatic, caring person with a great sense of humor. Many of us were exposed to this empathy and shared sincere laughter over a glass of good wine (Tomek's favorite beverage) at various congresses and in private.

We will miss you dearly, our friend! You will not be forgotten.

"No one is finally dead until the ripples they cause in the world die away. The span of someone's life is only the core of their actual existence."

Sir Terence Pratchett

ESS Executive Board on behalf of the European Shock Society