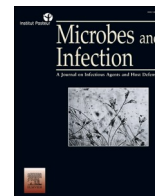


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Obituary Tomasz Skirecki (May 22nd, 1987–January 21st, 2025)



The Editorial Board of “Microbes & Infection” is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Tomasz Skirecki (37 years old). Dr. Skirecki was one of the kindest members of the editorial board of our journal, who, despite all his clinical and research commitments, always ensured the most professional editorial duties.

Our scientific community is devastated and heartbroken by the death of our young colleague after a short and courageous battle with a malignant disease. Tomasz passed away peacefully in his own hospital in Warsaw, under the loving care of his own clinical colleagues.

Tomasz (Tomek) Skirecki obtained his MD degree in 2012 at the Medical University of Warsaw and his PhD in 2014. For his PhD thesis, Dr Skirecki received an Excellence Award from the Prime Minister of Poland. In the following years, he specialized in anesthesiology and intensive care. Since 2017, Dr Skirecki was the Head of the Department of Translational Immunology and Experimental Intensive Therapy at the Postgraduate Medical Education Center (Warsaw), and simultaneously worked as a clinician at the National Medical Institute Hospital (Warsaw).

Dr Skirecki was the recipient of several national and international research grants. In 2017, Dr Skirecki 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.

Dr Skirecki was very much involved and active within the scientific community, for example, he was the youngest founding (and executive committee) member of the “European Group on Immunology of Sepsis” (EGIS), and the youngest appointed and then elected councilor of the European Shock Society (ESS). Dr Skirecki was an active conference speaker and session co-organizer, for example, at the biennial International Sepsis Update Conference in Weimar, Germany.

Dr Skirecki’s research focused on the pathophysiology of sepsis, whether at the bedside or in pre-clinical porcine or murine sepsis models, including humanized mice. His 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. Among his many contributions, his seminal research deciphering the contribution of inflammasome in COVID-19 and in *Acinetobacter baumannii*-induced pneumonia are especially interesting. Dr Skirecki designed experimental models illustrating the compartmentalization of the immune response during sepsis, particularly regarding the lung cells and bone marrow-derived myeloid and multipotent progenitor cells. He demonstrated that the bone marrow is the primary site of CD4⁺ memory T cell homing and proliferation after sepsis-induced lymphopenia and identified IL-7 as the major inducer of proliferation of these memory CD4⁺ T cells. Together with his international colleagues, Dr Skirecki authored several review papers in top journals (e.g. Lancet Respir. Med., EMBO Mol. Med., EBioMedicine) and supervised several MA/PhD students – an affirmation of his intellectual and mentorship abilities in critical medicine research.

In addition to being a bright and passionate scientist who loved to discuss science over a glass of fine red wine with his colleagues at congresses, Dr Skirecki was a marvelous human being, a warm, emphatic, caring person with a great sense of humor. We will miss his smile and kindness, we will keep him in our hearts echoing the words of the French poet, Paul Eluard: “*I wrote your name on the sand, but the wave erased it. I carved your name on a tree, but the bark fell off. I set your name in marble, but the stone broke. I buried your name in my heart, and time kept it.*”

CRediT authorship contribution statement

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