

Prof. **Alicja Wiercińska-Drapało**, M.D., PhD, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Alicja Wiercińska-Drapało, M.D., PhD is Professor and Head of the Department of Infectious, Tropical Diseases, and Hepatology at the Medical University of Warsaw (from 2008). As the Head of the Department, she actively participates in the creation of the recommendation for the Polish AIDS Scientific Society with regards to the principles of care for HIV-infected persons. Her department is responsible for teaching infectious and tropical diseases, and hepatology for all Departments of the Medical University (4500 teaching hours).

In her scholarly work, she dedicates special attention to testing of endothelial activity in HIV-infected patients, mitochondrial haplotypes in various causes of liver diseases, research in the field of genetic engineering in the field of early HCC detection, early detection of hepatocellular carcinoma, and organ-related complications of antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected and AIDS patients and their early detection.

Understanding medicine as the art of healing reveals the indispensability of listening with care to a human story as narrated by the patient. This listening with care will not turn medicine into a talking cure (à la psychoanalysis), but will inquisitively, intuitively, and imaginatively engage the personal reality of the patient in order for them to understand the justification for possible medical assistance. Without this sort of reform, the routine of doctors' turning a deaf ear to the patient will continue; society's disillusionment and disenchantment with the health care system will deepen. The covenant of trust between the doctor and the patient will largely be replaced by a business contract, which discloses the health care industry's incompetence and dysfunctionality in dealing with the human being in need.

As a dedicated and experienced physician, teacher, and scholar, she contributes to the reinterpretation of medicine as the *Art of Healing* in order to be of service to the human condition. Apart from many professional and academic awards, she was presented with 2020 The "Gloria Medicinae" Medal, the highest distinction of the Polish Medical Association, "for dedicated service to people, for the highest respect for human health and life, for conscientious and dignified treatment, for upholding the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession, for creating lasting values for the good of the Polish Medical Association."