

Jacek Kot, MD, PhD



Jacek was born in 1966 and raised in Gdynia, which is a city located in Poland on the south coast of the Baltic Sea. He was educated at the Medical University of Gdansk. Still as a medical student, and already advanced recreational diver, he joined the research group in the newly created Hyperbaric Centre of the Institute of Maritime and Tropical Medicine in Gdynia doing research on saturation decompression on nitrox, heliox and trimix, so his MD thesis was devoted to modelling of extremely long decompressions using different breathing gases. Later on, Jacek completed full clinical training in anaesthesia and intensive care and worked for several years in the Department of Anaesthesiology of the Medical University of Gdansk, still cooperating with the hyperbaric group in Gdynia. Then he decided to dedicate his professional life to diving and hyperbaric medicine and started to work fulltime in the Hyperbaric Centre, where he is now chief of research and education. This centre also includes the Intensive Care Unit and it is equipped with several multiplace hyperbaric chambers, a dry saturation diving simulator with a 'wet pot' and has the status of the Polish National Centre for Hyperbaric Medicine. Working here gave Jacek the opportunity to complete training in technical diving as well as the use of many types of recreational, professional and military diving equipment. Since 2005, he has been Secretary General of the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine (www.ECHM.org), and since 2015 he is the President of the European Underwater and Baromedical Society (www.EUBS.org). He has been involved in the international cooperation between European diving and hyperbaric centres (COST-B14, OXYNET, PHYPODE, DAN), as well as in the UHMS International Web-based Education Initiative. His professional interests include saturation decompression, long decompression after deep bounce dives, HBOT in critically ill patients and HBOT for necrotizing soft tissue infections.

(photo taken in one of the chambers of the Polish National Centre for Hyperbaric Medicine)