

# Medical training for Polish and NATO soldiers begins in Silesia

Health Policy • Ewa Baldyga

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**Silesian Park of Medical Technology Kardio-Med Silesia (KMS), founded on the initiative of the producer. Marian Zembali, in cooperation with the WSB Academy, introduced training in Battlefield Medicine using simulators and a large animal model to its offer. They hope that in addition to Polish soldiers, NATO soldiers will also train in Silesia. The training will also cover medics who have not yet learned medicine on the battlefield.**

The qualification-raising course is intended for **active duty soldiers and people performing medical functions (rescuers who have completed a qualified first aid course, paramedics and doctors)**. The practical scope of the training includes, among others: procedures such as treating evisceration, stopping bleeding, limb amputation, decompression of tension pneumothorax, cricotomy and other highly specialized medical procedures necessary to save lives at risk on the front line. These types of skills give the injured a greater chance of survival on the battlefield and the possibility of safe evacuation to higher levels of medical support.

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*We have obtained all appropriate permits, including the consent of the Ethics Committee, which is necessary to conduct training in the large animal model – says **Adam Konka, CEO of SPMT Kardio-Med Silesia.** We hope that soon this type of training will be included by the Ministry of National Defense in the specialist training program for military medics from the Polish army and independently for military medics from NATO troops – adds **A. Konka.***

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So far, Polish military medics have gone on this type of training, among others: to the United States or Canada. In Europe, only Hungary and Lithuania run them. In Poland, training at Kardio-Med Silesia is conducted by a highly specialized, experienced medical team.

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*In my opinion, workshops conducted on an animal model are necessary. We have the opportunity to practice procedures that are performed very rarely under normal conditions. We are talking here about **tightening the chest, wound packing, treating the gastroschisis or performing drainage, which is a more complicated procedure than, for example, applying a tourniquet.** These skills are very useful, e.g. in special units. This type of training cannot be replaced by any simulator or other device – says **one of the commandos who has already completed the training program at the Silesian center.***

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SPMT Kardio-Med Silesia was established in 2015 on the initiative of prof. Marian Zembala (cardiac surgeon, transplantologist, former Minister of Health), as a research, training and implementation center aimed at the development of innovative medicine not only for the province. Silesian. But in terms of already completed and ongoing projects, it is a unit with a European scope (currently, it is also preparing projects not only with partners from Europe but also with partners from the United States). From the very beginning of its launch, Kardio-Med Silesia has been and continues to provide highly specialized training for surgical medics from various medical specializations. Among other things, training in the POWER 5.4 program was carried out at this center at the request of the Ministry of Health: skills courses for doctors and resident doctors based on Evidence Based Medicine in the field of: **ablation, implantation of electrodeless pacemakers, treatment of atrial fibrillation, management of patients with respiratory failure, punctures transeptal or mechanical thrombectomy and other highly specialized training.**

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SPMT Kardio-Med Silesia, as part of its infrastructure, has highly specialized laboratories, including: a molecular biology and genetics laboratory, bio-printing and 3D printing used in medicine, and a cell laboratory where work with stem cells is carried out (with the possibility of conducting research in standard GLP (good laboratory practice).

The center also has **an animal facility for small and large animals** (minipigs and Polish Fold pigs). In the animal house for large animals, there are appropriate pens, equipped with heart monitors, heated mats and litter-free pens. At the Large Animal Facility there is an operating room equipped with devices such as an angiograph, devices for full animal anesthesia and extracorporeal circulation, cardiomonitors, operating microscopes and ultrasound/ultrasound for animals. The operating room at KMS for Animals is a recreation of operating rooms in leading clinical hospitals.

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