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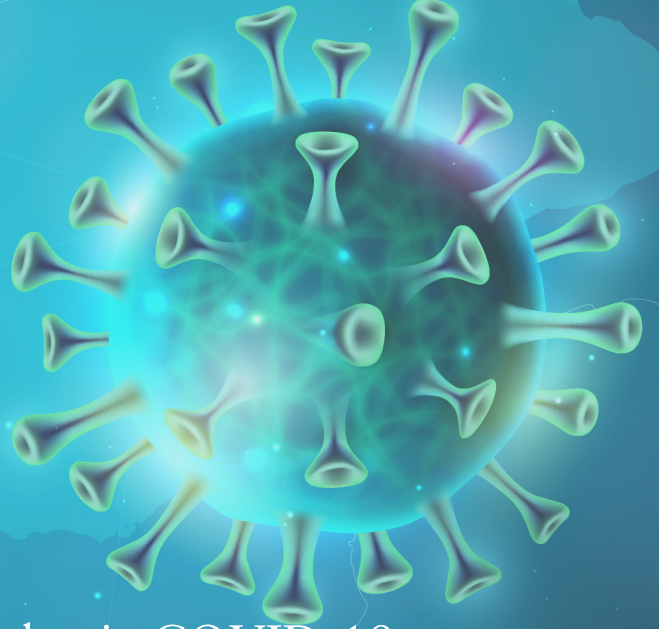
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SI: Updates of Pandemic COVID-19

Guest Editor

Zeliha KOÇAK TUFAN



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- Accepts English-language manuscripts in all fields of medicine and related health sciences.
- Contribution is open to researchers of all nationalities.
- The following types of papers are welcome: original articles (for the presentation of clinical and laboratory studies), review articles (by invitation only), and letters to the editor (letters to the editor should be under 500 words, with no abstract, and a maximum of one table, one figure, and 15 references).

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Editorial

The virus, SARS-CoV-2 and the disease, COVID-19 (CO: corona, VI: virus, D: disease, 2019).

Even the primary school students have more than enough knowledge about these words/terms and the pandemic now. Nobody seemed to have expected that this new emerging viral pneumonia outbreak that appeared in Wuhan in the last days of 2019 was going to break the chains and turn into a pandemic! After 2 years, many have learned to adapt to life in a pandemic, but many still struggle with its complications. The “new normal” has become our “normal” with masks, regular hand hygiene, keeping a distance from others, and so on. As of November 30, 2021, more than 250 million cases and 5 million deaths have been reported throughout the world (ourworldindata.org). Many lost their loved ones while many others lost their jobs, or even quit their jobs themselves. Academicians, physicians, health care personnel... All had been experiencing different levels of burnout! Mental health problems have been increasing, so that mental health task forces are gathering within campuses. Because of these psychological consequences of the pandemic, wellness studies, happiness, and life evaluation, religious practices plus volunteering were among the increasing interests, also in academy.

The disease affected our globe at a very unexpected level, both economically and socially. Education, ecosystem, tourism, cultural activities... All had to deal with different problems, had to take different measures to survive and live with and within the pandemic! A COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Board was gathered by the Ministry of Health of Turkey in the very early time of the outbreak. The Board members have been working 24/7 to overcome the outbreak in a professional way. They evaluate the data, prepare guidelines accordingly, and try to update the public. The “infodemic” has been an important concern as well. The Board has been discussing every detail on any subject with other professionals. All institutions and authorities have been welcomed to provide information and advice from the Board. The Board was enriched with the contributions of academics from social sciences.

The national and international institutions of our globe were all communicating and taking precautions in a faster manner than ever. Besides, the international organizations like WHO, UNESCO, and UNICEF, the roles of local authorities, health ministries, disease control centers, health protection agencies, research centers, and universities are all crucial at different operational levels to control and survive the pandemic. However, since the psychological aspects of the COVID-19 have been more severe than expected, mental health, wellness studies, and also the effects of volunteering studies will need more attention from the scientific authorities.

This second special issue of the Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences dedicated to COVID-19 is hosting the Scientific Advisory Board of the Ministry of Health. We cannot thank enough but only deeply appreciate the authors from the Scientific Board for their contributions. We would also like to extend our thanks to Prof. Ömer Açıkgöz, former Board Member of Halkbank and current Executive Board Member of Council of Higher Education, for evaluating the economic effects of COVID-19 for the issue. Besides The Scientific Board, the issue is also hosting several other important academicians to enrich the special issue: Prof. Eskild Petersen, Editor-in-Chief of International Journal of Infectious Diseases, Professor of Aarhus University, Head of Pro-Med and Consultant in Oman Ministry of Health; Prof. Kato Yasuyuki, the former Chief Physician of Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections Disease Control and Prevention Center National Center for Global Health and Medicine of Japan, currently the Director of Department of Infectious Diseases of Narita Hospital, International University of Health and Welfare, Prof. Marco Matucci-Cerinic from the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence, Italy, and Prof. Mervyn Mer from the Divisions of Critical Care and Pulmonology, Department of Medicine, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and Faculty of Health Sciences University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Many thanks to the Editor in Chief, Prof. Mehmet Akif Öztürk, and his team in Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences for their help and enormous effort to prepare this second special issue. Finally, we are deeply grateful to Prof. Hasan Mandal, the President of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey for his enormous support for fighting against COVID-19 and making this special issue happen.

Zeliha KOÇAK TUFAN, MD, Prof.
Guest Editor of the Special Issue