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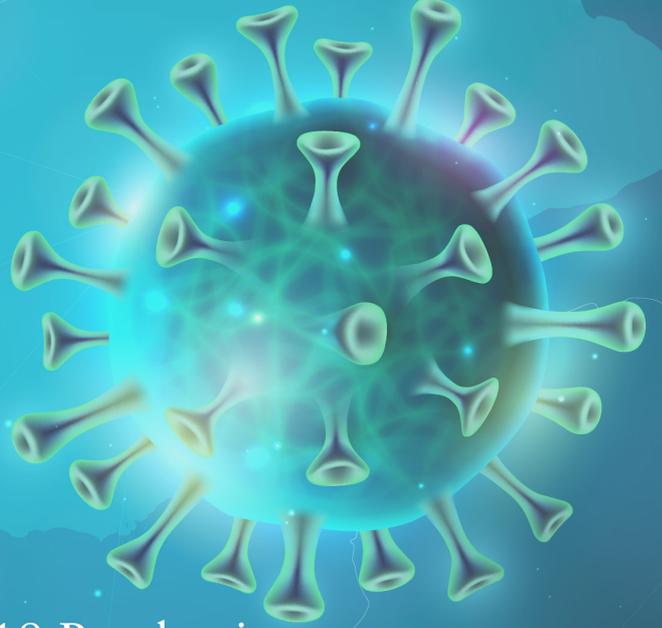
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SI: COVID-19 Pandemic

Guest Editor

Zeliha KOÇAK TUFAN



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- 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 news from East Asia was just interesting at the beginning. There were viral pneumonia cases of unknown etiology from China. At first, it drew attention of virologists and infectious diseases physicians. Nobody seemed to be expecting this emerging new viral pneumonia outbreak that appeared in Wuhan, in the last days of 2019, was going to break the chains and turn into a pandemic!

As of April 15 2020, there are 1,914,916 confirmed cases and 123,010 deaths throughout the world. The etiology of the so-called COVID-19 (CO: corona, VI: Virus, D: Disease, 2019) was found to be a novel coronavirus, SARS CoV-2. The disease also affected our globe in a very unexpected level, both economically and socially.

A COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Board was gathered by the Ministry of Health of Turkey in the very early time of the outbreak. They have been working 24/7 to overcome the outbreak in a professional way, they evaluate the data, prepare guidelines accordingly, and inform the public. The Board has been discussing every detail with other professionals as well. All institutions and authorities are welcome to provide information and advice from the Board. This special issue of Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences (TJMS) dedicated to COVID-19 is honored to host them. We cannot thank enough but only deeply appreciate the authors from the Scientific Board to contribute to this special issue. Besides The Scientific Board, the issue is also hosting Prof. İrfan Şencan, who was among the Health Team evacuating Turkish Citizens from Wuhan, and Prof. Ömer Açıkgöz, former Board Member of Halkbank, to evaluate the economic effects of COVID-19. We gratefully appreciate their contribution which enriched this issue.

We are also proud to have professional guests from different countries: 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, and also Prof. Marco Matucci-Cerinic from the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence, Italy.

Many thanks to Editor in Chief, Prof. Mehmet Akif Öztürk and his team in TJMS to help us with an enormous effort to prepare this special issue in a very short time. Dr. Merve Evren from Ege University drew the cover of the special issue and provided illustrations for the articles, many thanks to her as well. We would also like to extend our thanks to Prof. Cemal Bulut, who has got used to disasters and outbreaks, worked in different disasters such as Pakistan's Flood Disaster, Somalia, Darfur Sudan, Banda Aceh, Indonesia, helped a lot for preparing the issue, reviewing the articles. Finally, we are deeply grateful to Prof. Hasan Mandal, the President of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey for supporting us.

The national and international institutions of our globe were all communicating and taking precautions in a faster manner than ever. Beside 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 very important in different operational levels to control and survive the pandemic.

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