



## Psychological Impact of COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic on Pregnancy and the Offspring

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (31 July 2021)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new pathology with a rapid increase in the number of infected and deaths around the world since it was first identified in December 2019. Available data on the psychological effects on pregnant women and offspring are still scarce. Information regarding its consequences may serve as a guide on how it may affect pregnant woman and her developing fetus.

During pregnancy, environmental circumstances (included the exposure to a war, the death of a relative or natural disasters) can affect maternal and neonatal health. It is known how the environment pregnant women are exposed to can create a permanent imprint on fetal physiology that will last his/her entire life. Thus, as stated in the Developmental Origin of Health and Disease (DOHaD) theory promulgated by the epidemiologist David Barker, fetal programming occurs during prenatal development that will determine the health and disease of that individual throughout his extrauterine life. Exposure to high levels of stress has been described among the prenatal events that may affect maternal and the developing fetus health.

