



Stress and Moral Concerns in Health Care Systems: A Public Health Issue

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The healthcare system is characterized by a high level of diversity in terms of services and users. Current events related to the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing cases of chronic diseases including “long COVID”, the ageing of society and the lack of medical specialists worldwide have caused an increasing number of challenges for the healthcare system globally. The term “moral distress” is not new. This phenomenon affects medical personnel and can be described as a lack of confidence or external barriers such as legal constraints. It has been proven that prolonged moral distress has many negative effects, including emotional and psychological symptoms. Anxiety and depression can also result from prolonged moral distress. The causes of moral discomfort are related to patient-level, team/unit-level and organizational-level factors in a medical setting.

This Special Issue of the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* focuses on the current knowledge in the field of stress and moral concerns among medical professionals in different medical settings.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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