



Empowering Patients and Supporting Health Care Providers—New Avenues for High Quality Care and Safety

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Message from the Guest Editors

A large body of research suggests that establishing and strengthening patient–provider relationships, characterized by empathy, transparency, respect, and trust, is one of the core elements of healthcare. Promoting these relationships also implies healthcare institutions focusing on and caring for the individual persons that are part of this connection. However, due to fragmented care and work pathways and time and staff rationing, the human aspects of clinical practice are too often ignored. Indeed, patients whose individual needs are underestimated experience a lack of respect and autonomy. Moreover, healthcare providers are mostly judged by their job performance, potentially leading to stress, compassion fatigue, and burnout. This trend has heightened the need for an integrative approach to healthcare that empowers patients and supports the healthcare workforce. This Special Issue aims to publish high-quality, timely research on various aspects of patient empowerment in care and risk management, as well as the impact of patient safety culture, work-related stressors, and unanticipated clinical events on healthcare providers' wellbeing.





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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. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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