



Health and Healthcare Communication in the Pandemic Era: Opportunities and Constraints

Guest Editors:

Dr. Giacomo Scaioli

Department of Public Health and Pediatrics, Università degli Studi di Torino, 10126 Turin, Italy

Dr. Giuseppina Lo Moro

Department of Public Health Sciences and Paediatrics, University of Turin, 10126 Turin, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic led to deep changes both in the everyday practices of healthcare professionals and in the policies of health-related public institutions. Perhaps the greatest reform occurred in the field of communication, which involves all healthcare actors, from the single healthcare professional to the biggest institutions. The need to avoid social gatherings, and to assist COVID-19 patients who were isolated, led to an increase in the use of telemedicine tools. The need to provide quick and reliable information to the general population caused public institutions to find new and innovative ways to transmit pandemic-related messages. Social media raised their key role in the spread of (real and fake) news and information, thus acting as a potential tool to reach people, but also potentially contributing to the current infodemic.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- telemedicine and telehealth;
- healthcare communication;
- continuity of care;
- information overload;
- role of social media in healthcare;
- digital inequalities and digital divide;
- infodemic, fake news and conspiracy theories.





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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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MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
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