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EDITORIAL

Covid-19 special issue editorial

Covid-19 has dominated our lives for over 2 years now. What has been much less visible is the critical and diverse roles physiologists have played in addressing this threat. It is, therefore, a pleasure to introduce this *Experimental Physiology* Special Issue on Covid-19. This issue was conceived in December 2020 at the excellent 3-day Physiological Society meeting 'Covid-19: Lessons from the frontline' (https://www.physoc.org/magazine-articles/covid-19-conference-lessons-learned-from-the-frontline/) focusing on the challenges of understanding the pathophysiological changes occurring throughout the body following Covid-19 infection. The delay between that meeting and the present Special Issue has been due to the ongoing, high-priority work being undertaken by physiologists to try and suppress Covid-19, improve outcomes and minimise the risk of Long Covid, another area in which The Physiological Society and physiologists have taken a lead (https://www.physoc.org/magazine-articles/meeting-report-long-covid-mechanisms-risk-factors-and-recovery/).

This special issue contains fascinating insights into some of the Covid-related research of physiologists. This includes attempts to address the respiratory pathology caused by Covid-19, useful treatment paradigms and therapeutic interventions (Berg et al., 2022; Cronin et al., 2022; Formenti & Camporota, 2022; Kizhakke Puliyakote et al., 2022; Reznikov, 2022; Weerakkody & Montgomery, 2022); the impact of Covid-19 on children (Clark & Pathan, 2022); the treatment of Covid-related coagulopathy (Chowdary, 2022); impacts on the musculoskeletal system (Lepsen et al., 2022); cardiovascular system (Stute et al, 2022; Szeghy et al., 2022); serum albumin levels (Johnson & Winlow, 2022) and recovery from exercise (Baranauskas & Carter, 2022). Finally, there is a paper examining the limitations of infrared thermographic screening for Covid-19 and other infections (Mekjavic & Tipton, 2022).

In addition to being a valuable source of information, this special issue also demonstrates the rich mixture of expertise and detailed understanding that physiologists can bring to a problem like Covid-19 and many other disparate challenges. From pathophysiology to therapeutics to technological solutions and investigations, physiologist make important, paradigm-shifting contributions. They also establish productive and beneficial relationships with other disciplines, such as Critical Care, to address major problems. There is no doubt that physiologists have made a profound difference to our understanding of Covid-19. Physiologists have much to offer; often their contribution goes unseen, but this is usually the case with solid foundations.

I hope you enjoy this Special Issue of *Experimental Physiology*.

COMPETING INTERESTS

No competing interests were declared.

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