

# Overwhelming research during COVID-19

Sir,

In the past few decades, health and medical research encompassing clinical medicine, public health, and basic translational sciences have been the cornerstone of clinical advancement. The value of research has been recognized by governments worldwide, with billions of dollars invested in this industry annually. International collaborations have led to innumerable discoveries and therapies in the vast field of medical sciences. Observational studies fuelled the development of the first successful smallpox vaccination, eventually eradicating this disease worldwide.<sup>[1]</sup>

The coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) pandemic has led to an unprecedented level of interest in research.<sup>[2]</sup> Medical journals are receiving an overwhelming number of submissions in relation to COVID-19-including translational research, clinical perspectives, case reports, treatment trials, and review articles. Editorial boards and reviewers work tirelessly, evaluating and prioritizing key manuscripts to facilitate rapid dissemination of up-to-date information to its readers, enabling them to practice evidence-based medicine in these uncertain times.

The surge in research activity may be due to several reasons. First, COVID-19 is a novel form of coronavirus that has never been encountered before, sparking intense interest from the scientific community seeking to understand and unravel its mysteries as quickly as possible. Second, in contrast to previous pandemics of influenza A virus subtype H1N1 and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome, the disruptions of COVID-19 on daily life are enormous. Laws and restrictions has affected the lives of everyone in the world regardless of age, gender and socioeconomic status. In addition, conferences and examinations have been cancelled, and all nonessential medical procedures and surgeries suspended. While this has severely limited trainees' scope of practice, the new exposure to public health, epidemiology, and health-care systems has presented an opportunity for clinicians to participate in early research. Regardless of reason, the improvement of health and health care through research, while maintaining the highest standards and ethical principles, is a step in the right direction.

When the COVID-19 pandemic eventually comes to an end, we hope the passion for research will continue with scientific community forging ahead with enthusiasm and vigor to further the advancement of medicine.

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## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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