

## **Impact of Medical and Public Health Journals in Combating a Pandemic**

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As the vehicle for transmitting relevant information to society, scientific journals are used to transmit current information needed to enlighten society about emerging infectious diseases and other innovative discoveries which are known to combat diseases and enhance not only the quality of life but also improve human longevity. However, quite beyond human control, is the out-break of emerging infectious diseases (EID), which occur as sporadic outbreak confronting political leaders, scientists and the general public with pensive outrage of incessant reaction about medical and public health interventions designed to combat such emerging infections and sometimes lethal pandemics.

Our most recent observation is the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) which is now described as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). This pandemic was first identified and clinically characterized by Chinese scientists in December 2019 in Wuhan province, China. To facilitate international communication and explicit knowledge about the epidemiology of the pandemic, the abbreviation connotes "coronavirus disease" 2019.

For numerous new emerging disease outbreaks with high case fatality rate, the World Health Organization (WHO) very aggressively and painstakingly has always assumed leadership role in tracing the source of such outbreak, the case fatality rate, the nature of the agent, host characteristics and the time of onset of the disease and incubation period and whether the onset of the emerging infectious disease is a pandemic, endemic, acute or chronic and degenerative disease.

### **Role of epidemiologists and other clinicians in combating emerging infectious diseases**

According to Mausner and Burns [1], Epidemiology is the study of the determinants and distribution of injuries and diseases in human population. As a discipline, it has succinct applications in the investigation of new emerging infectious disease such as COVID-19 or HIV among other similar diseases. So far as a pandemic, scientists have successfully applied epidemiologic methods to characterize the nature of the disease, the degree of anguish, morbidity and mortality associated with a pandemic which has overwhelmed the planet (earth) with high mortality and morbidity rates.

In an effort to control and possibly eliminate this viral disease, nations worldwide, have relentlessly invested overwhelming financial, economic and medical resources to combat this health scourge. From these relentless efforts, the mortality and morbidity statistics from nations, worldwide continue to experience horrendous mortality and morbidity rate with sadistic regularity.

### **Mortality and morbidity statistics**

As a result of the lethal nature of this viral disease, the global morbidity statistics associated with COVID-19 as of July 20, 2020 were 14,852,700 with the morbidity rate of 613,213 and the frequency of patients who recovered were 8,906,69 worldwide.

By July 21, 2020 Our most recent observation, is that the COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is now described as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). This pandemic was first identified and clinically characterized by Chinese scientists by December 2019 in Wuhan province, China. To facilitate international communication and explicit knowledge about the epidemiology of the pandemic, the abbreviation connotes “coronavirus disease” 2019. At a global level, by July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, coronavirus disease has led to 607781 deaths which were reported to WHO. By July 21, 2020, Eastern Mediterranean reported 1,400,544 cases, Africa reported 611,185 cases, Western Pacific 266190, Americas 7,702,075 and Europe 3,103,674 cases, Eastern Asia 1,478,141, South East Asia, 1,478,141 and Eastern Mediterranean experienced 1,400,544, and United States with 3,748,248 cases out of which with over 317,48248 have died and Brazil reported 2098389 cases [2].

The outbreak of this disease has become inevitable. We have observed Smallpox, the Human Immune-deficiency virus (HIV) and plague in human history, these health abnormalities are usually overwhelming with the onset of death and disability which occur with sadistic regularity. The scientific, economic and political measures to combat these diseases can be collaborative at best, but challenging to say the least. However, the key functions of medical and public health and political disciplines cannot be over-emphasized.

The physicians who are involved in the treatment of patients suffering from any of these pandemics must protect patients’ privacy by restricting disclosure to the barest minimum amount of information to avoid social stigmatization status of the patient. Physicians are not supposed to identify the patients when advising third parties about patients’ exposure. Physicians are ethically bound to discharge such patients to an environment which is conducive to their prompt and wholesome recovery.

By far most important, is the impact of public health interventions during an outbreak of a pandemic. Public health discipline plays a monument role in recognizing that failing to give commensurate consideration to the needs of all populations within specific community, especially to those who are most vulnerable can be inappropriate and literally dangerous.

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### Bibliography

1. Mausner JS and Kramer. “Epidemiology: An Introduction”. WB Saunders Co (1985).
2. World Health Organization. Coronavirus Disease COVID-19 Dashboard of COVID-19 Worldwide (2020).

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