

FROM EDITORS

Dear Readers,

In the time this issue of Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (APP) is released, the whole world is striving against the third wave of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. COVID-19 with its largely unpredictable outcomes became a hard challenge for professionals representing nearly all medical specialities, including psychiatry. The psychological burden of a new disease that took so many lives and left so many people in mourning is not to be underestimated. Scientific literature focused on the recent pandemic is successively growing (e.g., 23,634 unique published articles have been indexed on Web of Science and Scopus between 1 January and 30 June 2020! [1]) and few related manuscripts were already presented in APP last year [2,3]. The current issue of APP is overwhelmingly dedicated to the COVID-19 – related topics. The harmful influence of pandemic burden on healthcare professionals was undertaken by the Authors of three articles. Ana Paula Salvador et al. have investigated the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Brazilian healthcare workers who work in the front line with patients diagnosed with COVID-19. These professionals should receive special support as they are vulnerable to specific concerns about the future, high level of stress, mental tiredness, irritation, and fatigue as compared to those who do not work directly with people affected by COVID. However, these days, all HCPs are at risk of pandemic-related health anxiety that is associated with depressive symptoms and decreased quality of life, as explored in works by Mohamed Abdelghani et al.

Patel et al. found that medical comorbidities, frontline work and frequently watching COVID-19 news are identified as additional vulnerability factors. Many practical concerns arise when patient diagnosed with COVID-19 or referred to quarantine has to be admitted to psychiatric ward. One of such cases was presented and discussed by Michał Wroński and Zuzanna Dukaczewska. In contrast, low fear of COVID-19 was found among the general Nigerian population where public enlightenment and limited consumption of news on COVID-19 were suggested to abate fear of the virus (see Deborah Oyine Aluh et al.).

Psychological factors are still underestimated and need more attention in patients suffering from chronic illness such as coronary heart disease (CHD) [4]. In one of the former issues of APP, Cognitive and functional impairment, and perception of illness in acute stroke patients were explored [5]. In this issue, in the article on anxiety and its role for cognitive changes in patients after coronary artery bypass grafting, Daria Eremina found that CHD patients complaining about the state of the cognitive sphere disclosed more personal anxiety and feelings of emotional discomfort with life situations.

Administrative, juridical and social difficulties faced in clinical practice by psychiatrists with an example of care of a patient with organic hallucinosis were greatly expressed in the article by Szczygieł et al. As a result of malfunction of the care system, large number of people waiting to be placed in the Social Welfare Homes as well as obstructive and time-consuming judicial procedures, chronically mentally ill patients who don't need further hospital treatment are being placed for many months in closed wards and vulnerable to the complications related with long-standing hospitalization. As the Authors scrupulously reviewed and discussed existing legal regulations and difficulties they met during prolonged and ongoing care of a patient, the read has instructive and practical values.

In the last article, Dash et al. raise the problem of a deficiency of studies on mental health problems performed in the African subcontinent. Authors aim is to raise the awareness of researchers of an urgent need of investigation of psychotic disorders in the area stricken by poor socio-economic, psychological, medical and educational situation.

Wishing you good and inspirative read,

**On behalf of the Editorial Committee,
Michał Lew-Starowicz**

REFERENCES

1. <https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/how-coronavirus-is-changing-research-practices-and-publishing>, retrieved on 21.03.2021
2. Skoneczny T, Lebiecka Z, Kucharska-Mazur J, Samochowiec J. Problems with treatment of COVID-19 (+) patient with psychiatric disorder – a case report. *Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy*, 2020; 2: 7–9
3. Gonçalves AP, Zuanazzi AC, Salvador AP, Jaloto A, Pianowski, de Francisco Carvalho L. Preliminary findings on the associations between mental health indicators and social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy*, 2020; 2: 10–19
4. Nekouei ZK, Yousefy A, Doost HT, Manshaee G, Sadeghei M. Structural model of psychological risk and protective factors affecting on quality of life in patients with coronary heart disease: A psychocardiology model. *J Res Med Sci*. 2014 Feb; 19(2): 90–98
5. Turana Y, Puspitarini Sani T, Suryani E, Kaptein AA. Cognitive and functional impairment, and perception of illness in acute stroke patients. *Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy*, 2019; 4: 37–44.