Contributions of Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences (IJMS) during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A A Asadi-Pooya
Epilepsy Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran; Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, Department of Neurology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Mohsen Farazdaghi
Epilepsy Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

Marzieh Rostaminejad
Epilepsy Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

Manica Negahdaripour
Department of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, School of Pharmacy, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran; Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

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Recommended Citation
Asadi-Pooya, A A; Farazdaghi, Mohsen; Rostaminejad, Marzieh; and Negahdaripour, Manica, "Contributions of Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences (IJMS) during the COVID-19 Pandemic." (2021). Department of Neurology Faculty Papers. Paper 271.
https://jdc.jefferson.edu/neurologyfp/271

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Contributions of Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences (IJMS) during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Editor

Since late 2019, the world and since early 2020, Iran has been experiencing a catastrophic pandemic of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2).1 This fatal virus has a high potential for person-to-person transmission; therefore, this deadly outbreak has caused massive job losses, various psychiatric problems, and increasing difficulties for all businesses worldwide.2-5 Production of scientific data and its timely dissemination are the essential elements of an effective response to any crisis including the current pandemic. The current study aimed to determine the early contributions of the Iranian Journal of Medical Sciences (IJMS) during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. We retrieved all the IJMS publications in 2020 and divided the published articles into three main categories: clinical sciences, basic sciences, and editorials. We also identified and highlighted the studies related to COVID-19.

There were 66 published articles in 2020. This number was also 66 in the previous year (2019). The main categories of the 2020 articles included: 32 clinical studies (48.5%), 23 basic science studies (34.9%), and 11 editorials/letters to the editor (16.7%) (figure 1). In total, 10 studies (15.2%) were related to COVID-19 (figure 2). Among the clinical studies, three (9.4%) were COVID-19 related studies.6-8 None of the basic science studies was related to COVID-19. However, out of 11 articles that were published as editorials/letters to the editor, seven (63.6%) were COVID-19-related.9-15 This study showed that while the pandemic of COVID-19 has disrupted many businesses and works globally, it has not negatively affected the scientific publications by IJMS. On the other hand, the current situation has created a lot of enthusiasm for research and publication on the issue of “COVID-19”; this is a global phenomenon.16 It seems that while the healthcare fraternity is struggling to circumvent the clinical and humanitarian consequences of this fast-spreading fatal infection, at the same time, they are trying hard to continue their scientific research and discoveries and share them with others through their research publications in a timely manner.17 The higher percentage of the COVID-19 related editorials (63.6%) indicates the focus of the IJMS editorial team on this global issue and their efforts to spotlight the up-to-date important topics regarding COVID-19.

Conflicts of Interest

Manica Negahdaripour, as the Editorial Team Member, was not involved in the peer-review and decision-making processes for this manuscript.

Published articles in IJMS in 2020

![Pie chart showing the distribution of published articles in IJMS in 2020: Clinical Studies 32, 48%, Basic Sciences 23, 35%, Editorials/Letters to editors 11, 17%.]

Figure 1: The figure shows the number and percentage of the published articles in IJMS in 2020.
Asadi-Pooya AA, Farazdaghi M, Rostaminejad M, Negahdaripour M

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Ali Akbar Asadi-Pooya1,2, MD; Mohsen Farazdaghi1, MD; Marzieh Rostaminejad1, MSc; Manica Negahdaripour3,4, PharmD, PhD

1Epilepsy Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran; 2Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, Department of Neurology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, USA; 3Department of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, School of Pharmacy, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran; 4Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran

Correspondence:
Ali Akbar Asadi-Pooya, MD;
Epilepsy Research Center, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, Iran
Tel/Fax: +98 71 36121065
Email: aliasadipooya@yahoo.com
Received: 23 October 2021
Revised: 30 October 2021
Accepted: 01 November 2021

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