



Antimicrobial Prescribing Practices and Antimicrobial Resistance in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The syndemic impact of COVID-19 affected several fields of healthcare, and antimicrobial resistance is among them. Recent international reports reveal a transient decrease in some community-acquired pathogens in the first year of the pandemic with an increase thereafter, pointing to the role of infection prevention in the general population, including hygiene and vaccination. At the same time, we have observed a general increase in typical hospital-acquired pathogens. In addition, many countries report critical increases in some extremely resistant pathogens such as carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. As the pandemic has slowly started to calm down, the hidden pandemic of antimicrobial resistance remains and requires increased effort in infection control and antimicrobial stewardship. To support antimicrobial stewardship interventions, careful analysis of what transpired is needed. The focus of this Special Issue includes various aspects of antibiotic use during the COVID-19 pandemic in outpatients, hospitals, ICU wards, as well as antibiotic treatment in patients with COVID-19.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

There are very few fields that attract as much attention as scientific endeavor related to antibiotic discovery, use and preservation. The public, patients, scientists, clinicians, policy-makers, NGOs, governments, and supra-governmental organizations are all focusing intensively on it: all are concerned that we use our existing agents more effectively, and develop and evaluate new interventions in time to face emerging challenges for the benefit of present and future generations. We need every discipline to contribute and collaborate: molecular, microbiological, clinical, epidemiological, geographic, economic, social scientific and policy disciplines are all key. *Antibiotics* is a nimble, inclusive and rigorous indexed journal as an enabling platform for all who can contribute to solving the greatest broad concerns of the modern world.

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