



Palliative Care as an Integrated Response in the Healthcare System

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Message from the Guest Editors

The increase in the aging population and chronic illnesses raises certain ethical, social, organizational and professional challenges. It follows that the concept of the terminally ill patient may evolve, for very different reasons, namely the increasing life expectancy, uncertainty in prognosis and the rapid progression of science and biotechnology. Palliative care emerges as a response to these needs, in which the demand for an early integration of patients in palliative care will possibly increase in the future. The role of each participant is fundamental to promote communication, education, biopsychosocial-spiritual care and to increase the wellbeing of patients and families, of the healthcare team and of the community. The healthcare system must be prepared to deal with these challenges in order to respond efficiently and equitably to society.

Original research studies, scoping and systematic reviews following the PRISMA guidelines, meta-analyses and case reports are invited for this Special Issue, especially those combining a high academic standard coupled with a practical focus on providing significant approaches and responses to an integrated palliative care system.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Discovery and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a scientific basis for decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards. *IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed, open access journal.

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