



## Quality Healthcare at the End of Life

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Palliative care is a crucial part of integrated, people-centered health services. It aims to relieve the suffering of patients due to life-threatening illness, whether physical, psychological, social or spiritual. Palliative care improves the quality of life of patients, as well as their informal caregivers. Each year, an estimated 56.8 million people, including 25.7 million in the last year of life, are in need of palliative care worldwide; however, only 14% currently receive it. There are several reasons for this: lack of awareness about what it is and what benefits it might offer, misconceptions about palliative care (such as that it is only for patients with cancer, or for the last weeks of life) and cultural and social barriers. Even in countries where the general level of palliative care is high, we often see that there is no equal access for all who need it. Furthermore, due to new treatment modalities, the course of diseases, e.g., in the case of some cancers, is changing.

Therefore, we are pleased to invite you to share your research in palliative care with us regarding accessibility, equity and diversity, and awareness and public health.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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