Special Issue

Psychological Impact of COVID-19 Worldwide Pandemic on Pregnancy and the Offspring

Message from the Guest Editors

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new pathology with a rapid increase in the number of infected and deaths around the world since it was first identified in December 2019. Available data on the psychological effects on pregnant women and offspring are still scarce. Information regarding its consequences may serve as a guide on how it may affect pregnant woman and her developing fetus. During pregnancy, environmental circumstances (included the exposure to a war, the death of a relative or natural disasters) can affect maternal and neonatal health. It is known how the environment pregnant women are exposed to can create a permanent imprint on fetal physiology that will last his/her entire life. Thus, as stated in the Developmental Origin of Health and Disease (DOHaD) theory promulgated by the epidemiologist David Barker, fetal programming occurs during prenatal development that will determine the health and disease of that individual throughout his extrauterine life. Exposure to high levels of stress has been described among the prenatal events that may affect maternal and the developing fetus health.

Guest Editors

Dr. Rafael A. Caparros-Gonzalez

Dr. Alejandro de la Torre-Luque

Dr. Ana Ganho Ávila Costa

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 July 2021)



Behavioral Sciences

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 3.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/47091

Behavioral Sciences Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 behavsci@mdpi.com

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Prof. Dr. Jerrell Cassady

Department of Educational Psychology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. USA

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