

Supportive Care Needs of Cancer Patients and Caregivers

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (30 November 2021)

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

A diagnosis of cancer and its treatment can result in a wide range of short and long-term side effects and accompanying distress, which can impair patients' quality of life. For many, these supportive care issues are neglected or not adequately addressed by the formal healthcare system, resulting in a high burden of unmet needs. Family members or spouse caregivers are critical in maintaining and improving the quality of life of patients with cancer and in helping to address their unmet needs. However, family caregivers require support as well, and as they often fulfill their role without formal assistance, they experience considerable unmet supportive care needs themselves. The accurate assessment of perceived needs is critical in order to tailor health services and supportive care interventions to each patient and family caregiver's circumstances, psychosocial profile and supportive care needs.

