

## Special Issue

# Health Outcomes Among the Elderly with Multiple Chronic Conditions: Urban Versus Rural Areas

### Message from the Guest Editor

Healthcare is a prime area of public policies where geographic distribution of services is critically important. Urban concentration has both its advantages and disadvantages. Relative to rural areas, urbanization is associated with more physician availability, proximity to hospitals and health clinics, and better treatment modalities for critical care patients. These factors lead to a better access to healthcare for the general population as well as for the elderly, who are particularly vulnerable due to the existence of multiple chronic conditions and poorer functional status. On the other hand, recent data show that the urban agglomeration could have resulted in a higher prevalence of certain chronic conditions, such as asthma among children and COPD among the elderly, due to poorer living situations and poorer health outcomes, as marked by higher COVID-19 death rates. A comprehensive analysis of health outcomes for urban and rural area elderly residents, particularly those with a higher prevalence of chronic conditions and poorer functional status, will be useful to prescribe public policies for ideal geographic allocation of scarce healthcare resources.

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