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Health Literacy and Social Contexts

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Message from the Guest Editors

Health literacy, defined as individuals' ability to find, understand, critique, and use health-related information, has the potential to empower people to make positive health choices. Historically and clinically, health literacy has primarily been understood as an individual construct. However, recent research highlights the role of social contexts in acquiring knowledge and making healthrelated decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the value in this research, illustrating that understanding, evaluating, and using health information is dynamic and socially determined, rather than fixed and individual. To develop successful health literacy interventions on both individual and collective levels, a more nuanced, theory- and research-based understanding of how social contexts shape health literacy is needed. To promote further exploration of this topic, we are seeking manuscripts that examine the intersection of social contexts and health literacy.









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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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