Special Issue

Enhancing Quality of Life: Holistic Approaches to Safety in Older Adults

Message from the Guest Editors

Worldwide, the older population is steadily increasing. Although life expectancy has increased, people live for many years with at least one chronic disease and varying degrees of physical and/or cognitive disability. In this scenario, self-care practices in which people manage themselves with possible support from their family members are essential. But when functional or cognitive deficits increase, skilled, ongoing care that takes into consideration the safety of the person being cared for is also necessary. At the same time, it is essential to maintain the best possible quality of life so that the person perceives that he or she is living with dignity and that life is worth living. This is often easy when people are living in their home, where people are cared for by one or more family caregivers. Often it is very demanding and challenging when people are cared for in residential facilities or in long-term care settings. Of equal importance is taking care of caregivers, both family and professional, ensuring conditions of wellbeing. Burnout situations could compromise the caregiver's health, the safety of the person being cared for, and the caregiving relationship.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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