

## Special Issue

# Reducing Health Disparities: The Role of Health Literacy and Health Promotion

### Message from the Guest Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of health disparities to the fore. It is widely acknowledged that promoting social justice and equity is crucial in the post-COVID-19 era. Therefore, addressing health disparities has become an even more critical agenda for research and public health. The United Nations emphasized the importance of health literacy for achieving positive health outcomes. During a public health crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, having health literacy is crucial to understanding important public health measures and taking the necessary actions to safeguard public health and save lives. Over the past few decades, health literacy research has predominantly concentrated on individual health literacy, primarily using descriptive study designs. We need more evidence to intervene at various levels using diverse study designs and populations, including those in rural areas. Furthermore, it is necessary to develop new health promotion strategies for vulnerable groups due to the ongoing digital divide among certain segments of society, including older adults and those with limited resources and/or a limited education.

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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. 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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