

Special Issue

Advances and Innovations in Mental Health and Public Health

Message from the Guest Editors

792 million people (about 10.7%; equivalent to more than one in ten people) were living with a mental health disorder in 2017 (WHO, 2018). Many mental health conditions are easily treated with high effectiveness at relatively low cost. However, the gap between people in need of care and those with access to care remains substantial. With the advent of the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2, these numbers are even larger and more sensitive in key populations. Due to its impact, mental health is today a major challenge for health research and practice and, for this reason, it should be seen as a public and global health priority for all countries and communities. Without good mental health, people feel unable to carry out daily living activities, including self-care, education, employment and participation in social life. The development of debates focused on this public health problem is urgent and necessary, and should be based on research, policy and practice that place mental well-being at the heart of the public health agenda.

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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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