Special Issue

The Internet and Social Media as Sources of Health Information

Message from the Guest Editors

The Internet and social media are a large source of health information and have the capacity to influence their users. However, the information found online often lacks scientific rigor, as anyone may upload content. This factor is a cause of great concern to scientific societies, governments, and users. Misinformation hampers public health responses to epidemics and can result in people taking fewer measures to prevent disease transmission effectively. The World Health Organization explains that infodemics are an excessive amount of information about a problem, which makes it difficult to identify a solution. Infodemics can hamper an effective public health response and create confusion and distrust among people. The aim of this Special Issue is to address and investigate this problem by assessing: effectiveness of strategies to control infodemics; impact of online health information; countries responses to mitigate misinformation; factors associated with health information.

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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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