

Special Issue

Noise Induced Hearing Loss and Tinnitus, Public Health and Sustainability Effects

Message from the Guest Editor

Subjective tinnitus is a symptom often caused by hearing loss but can also emerge without clinically relevant changes in the auditory system. Between 10% and 20% of the population of Western countries are affected by this auditory phantom percept. Tinnitus can cause central nervous co-morbidities like depression, anxiety, or insomnia, which can lead to social isolation and may even result in suicide. The socioeconomic costs directly related to subjective tinnitus in European countries like the Netherlands or Germany can amount to 6.8 billion or 32.8 billion euros per year, respectively. Even though the individual and social pressure is high, no successful treatments for most forms of this phantom percept have been found.

Guest Editor

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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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