



Opportunities and Barriers to Immunization Hesitance

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (31 July 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Growing resistance to vaccination requires a new approach to public health in the context of worldwide pandemics. The mismatch between stated beliefs and behaviors reveals the shortcomings of survey research in the context of a socially undesirable trait: few are willing to acknowledge needle fear, and medical investigators often lack personal empathy with the problem needed for appropriate design. Freeman et al. estimated that 15% of those in the UK refusing vaccines did so due to needle fear. Basic issues of pain, vasovagal response, and fear of side effects once thought relevant only in pediatrics have become relevant to regaining trust and willingness for population-based vaccination.

Both understanding the basic interplay of pain, fear, and residual perspectives on vaccine acceptance and optimizing the appropriateness of vaccines individually can rebuild trust in the most basic pillar of public health.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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