

Editorial

In Greek mythology, when Pandora opened her box out of curiosity, she let loose the Gods' divine wrath which swept through the world in the form of strife and sickness. The only thing that was left behind, as Pandora shut the lid, was a timid spirit named Elpis, usually translated as *hope*. With the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging global health and economy, hope had been nowhere to be found... until now. The deployment of vaccines around the world has begun to slowly restore a glimmer of hope, heralding a return to normalcy. So now the questions before us are different than the questions that had been plaguing us for a year. Now that the end is in sight, what kind of world will we be returning to?

Some scientists have described this pandemic as “the Disease of the Anthropocene” – a new ecological epoch characterized by the effect that human activities have on the world's natural ecosystems and their consequences on public health, society and environment. The disruption to earth's environment caused by humans has long been apparent; but over the past decades we have seen human activity enable the transmission of infectious diseases from other species to humans.

This issue of Asian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences (AJMHS) tries to take stock of the changes to our systems and institutions that have been caused by the pandemic and tries to examine which of those changes are likely to be long lasting – even becoming the new normal.

In “*Challenges in Effective Curricular Delivery, While Navigating the Uncertainties of the Pandemic Year 2020-'21*”, a senior professor and dean of a medical school in Malaysia has presented an autoethnographic report on the cause of disruption of traditional medical education and his experiences and experiments on innovative online teaching and learning solutions; of shifting from a linear model to a jig-saw puzzle model in order to continue the instructional process. Subsequent articles titled “*Force Field Analysis on Online Teaching*” and “*Adapting Longitudinal Clinical Clerkship in Internal Medicine to Simulation Mode Learning*” also try to piece together the puzzle around delivering effective medical instruction without having the privilege of in-person education. Other pieces in this volume delve into the psycho-social aspect of medicine – covering important topics like vaccine hesitancy among Malaysian adults and the mental health impact of the Movement Control Order on medical students.

The authors in this volume have not only produced strong and compelling work in the middle of the pandemic but also offered retrospective analysis that will prove useful to those that will study this phenomenon in the future. While I am extremely proud of what is arguably our strongest volume yet, I am also saddened by the fact it will be my last with AJMHS.

As all things evolve and metamorphose into something else, I too must find new adventures and new roads to travel on. But in my time here, it has been an absolute pleasure dear reader to have edited AJMHS and curated these pieces for you. As Lord Alfred Tennyson wrote in *The Brook*, “*Men may come and men may go but I go on forever*” – and so shall this journal after my departure.

I offer my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all the authors and reviewers for their significant contribution in moulding and transforming AJMHS these past few years. I request you all to continue your support and love to convert AJMHS to a SCOPUS-indexed journal in the near future. I convey my heartfelt thanks to Dr Vignesh, Associate Editor for his continuous help in all these years. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude to AP Dr Syed Rahim Syed Hamid, our beloved Dean of Faculty of Medicine for his constant support and encouragement. I am grateful to our beloved CEO, Mr. Hisshamuddin Omar for his recognition and appreciation. I am thankful to the IT department and Mr. Ekhwan for making all the issues of AJMHS available to our readers with great ease. I have all my words of gratitude for few of our senior faculty in the editorial and advisory board who have showered their praise and appreciation to me for the past few years. I am also thankful to all my critics as their comments and criticism had helped in germinating more and more challenges inside me to look ahead and move forward.

Last but not the least, I request all the authors and readers to get vaccinated with their family and friends and convince others to do so – that is our only chance to collectively beat this disease.

LINDUNG DIRI (Save yourself).
LINDUNG SEMUA (Save the society).

I wish all the best to Asian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences and all its future editors.

Dr Basanta Kumar Mohanty
Chief Editor
Asian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences (AJMHS)