

Editorial

On May 5th, the World Health Organisation lifted the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for COVID-19, bringing the emergency declaration to a conclusion after more than three years. Nonetheless, the globe is still recovering from the epidemic's consequences and learning how to effectively respond if another pandemic happens within the next decade.

We have two interesting review papers in this Volume 6, Issue 1 of June 2023; one elucidates the behavioural challenges in children born from women who suffer from maternal depression, and the other focuses on cardiovascular diseases prevalent in schizophrenic patients. This literature review showed a significant association between maternal depression and childhood internalising and externalising behavioural problems. A maternal depression prevalence of 10% may mean that out of 439,744 live births in Malaysia (2021), 10% of these children are likely to be depressed, anxious, and/or disruptive. This finding highlighted the importance of identifying mothers at risk of depression and their children to provide early intervention that requires multidisciplinary approach with psychiatry, counselling on good parenting and social services. One of the worst outcomes of childhood depression is teenage suicide. Depression, anxiety, stress, and a lack of peer and parental connectivity were all recognised as biopsychological risk factors for juvenile suicide by Chua et al. [1].

The review study on cardiovascular risk in schizophrenia demonstrated that schizophrenia and its antipsychotic drugs have a considerable impact on cardiovascular risk in these individuals, resulting in a shorter life expectancy. The author's advice to incorporate cardiovascular screening in schizophrenic patients when attending their psychiatric follow-up clinic and re-strategize therapy using more heart-friendly antipsychotics should be actively considered.

Another interesting, if little contentious, research that addresses the disadvantage faced by male medical students learning obstetrics and gynaecology, which may lead to a loss of interest in future endeavours in this specialty. It is critical that all graduating doctors be competent in executing clinical procedures, and gender disadvantage makes educating male medical students difficult.

To all readers and authors to the Asian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences, the website will be upgraded to incorporate an online manuscript upload directly on the webpage. As a result, it will be easier to submit manuscripts and have a shorter turnaround time for peer review processing.

The editorial team wishes to thank all the authors and peer reviewers who contributed to this issue of AJMHS, as well as the CEO of the UniKL RCMP campus and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, for their continued support of AJMHS.

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[1] Chua SN, Mogan V. Youth suicide in Malaysia. *Relate Malaysia* in collaboration with IDEAS, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs; 2021.