

Foreword from the Editor-in-Chief

*An issue dedicated to COVID-19 research in Europe
and beyond in the renewed European Journal of Mental Health*

Beáta Dávid  ¹ 



OPEN ACCESS

¹ Faculty of Health and Public Administration,
Institute of Mental Health, Semmelweis
University, Budapest, Hungary

Correspondence

Beáta Dávid
Faculty of Health and Public Administration,
Institute of Mental Health, Semmelweis University
Postal Address: 1089 Budapest, Nagyvárad tér 4.
Hungary
Email: david.bea@public.semmelweis-univ.hu

Citation

Dávid, B. (2022). Foreword from the
Editor-in-Chief. An issue dedicated to COVID-19
research in Europe and beyond in the renewed
European Journal of Mental Health.
European Journal of Mental Health, 17(2), 7–8.
<https://doi.org/10.5708/EJMH.17.2022.2.2>

Welcome to the second issue of the renewed European Journal of Mental Health (EJMH), established in 2006 by the Institute of Mental Health Semmelweis University. EJMH is an international, interdisciplinary, open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes research in social and behavioral sciences focusing on mental health, personal and relational well-being, and quality of life. After 15 years of hard and systematic work with enduring achievements by the previous editor-in-chief and editorial board, in 2022 the Journal, for the first time, has been given all the means to attain a significantly higher-ranking position in the near future. This means that from 2022 onward, Semmelweis University – as the owner and publisher of the EJMH – assigns significant and substantial financial support to the Journal.

Amid such promising circumstances, we published our first renewed issue in June 2022, and now the second one is finally completed and ready to be published in October. This issue is dedicated to COVID-19 research in Europe and worldwide, containing a collection of articles that were submitted to our Journal during the previous two years focusing on COVID-19. We are in line with several other journals that since 2020 either deliberately or unintentionally review and publish a continuously increasing number of articles related to the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2. Just a glimpse to show the extent of this scientific interest: according to LitCovid, a literature hub for tracking up-to-date scientific information about the novel SARS-CoV-2, there are 288 782 (and still growing) relevant articles published in PubMed only! (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/research/coronavirus/>)

The present issue serves as a very good example of the interdisciplinary and international nature of EJMH. We can say that the eleven papers yield a worldwide representation of how different groups (age groups, professional groups, and groups with different mental illnesses) lived and experienced hardships during the pandemic. The authors and their subjects hail from Europe (Croatia, Greece, Portugal, UK, Italy, and Hungary), Russia, Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines), and the US.

By now it is an evidence-based, well-known fact that the pandemic's impact was pervasive and quite serious to young people's

and students' mental health and learning abilities. In this issue's first section, more than half of the papers (six out of the eleven) focus on young people: university, college, or high-school students.

Interestingly, in some way or another, in their findings based on quantitative or qualitative approach, all six papers come to the conclusion that an urgent need exists for greater accessibility of mental health care for young people.

Another important group that stayed seriously involved both mentally and physically during the pandemic while doing the everyday routine consisted of the helping professionals. From a Hungarian study (Pilinszki et al.), it turned out that the burden on health and social care workers stood significantly higher than on members of other helping professions. The Russian paper's (Korehova et al.) sample also focuses on health professionals; the authors aim to identify the features of anesthesiologists-reanimatologists' emotional states in different COVID-19 pandemic periods.

During COVID-19, resilience – the study of the protective factors; i.e. to name the keys for a successful and healthy survival – also remains in the center of research interest. Thus, in the present issue we offer two papers (Biassoni et al. from Italy and Sherman et al. from the US) focused on this. Again, it is emphasized: optimism, hope, a positive attitude and gratitude all benefit our well-being, preventing harm in times of need.

This issue of the Journal only has one review paper (Tolsá & Tolsá). This paper offers a systematic review on what we know about the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). It also seeks examples on interventions carried out, their effectiveness, and the proposal of intervention in future situations similar to the one studied.

Since all papers bear recommendations for further research and/or implications for mental health professionals, I hope readers make good use of the present and all the coming articles published in this Journal. In the meantime, I also encourage both authors and readers to initiate meaningful discussions, debates, and collaborations. The Editorial Board of EJMh welcomes your contributions and looks forward to more fruitful research to come.

The EJMh staff looks forward to further renewal with a new design and new professional guidelines. After this year's third and last issue, coming out in December, we will move to continuous publication (1-3 articles per month) from 2023. On behalf of the current Editorial Office and Editorial Board, I invite you to follow the Journal's development (www.ejmh.eu).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the former editorial board members, peer reviewers, contributing authors, new editorial office members and many others for making the EJMh into what it is now. Special thanks go to my three colleagues, Melinda Winkler, Ildiko Danis, and Balint Balazs for their enormous work and encouragement throughout these past years.

Beáta Dávid, PhD

Editor-in-Chief

European Journal of Mental Health