



Healthcare systems under pressure

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Spring is finally at our doorstep blooming the mimosas and reminding us of women's day and the sun's prolonged gaze. Yet, rather than rebirth, this March seems to recall the Roman God after which it was named, a looming presence of turmoil and war none of us were ever expecting to witness. It is impossible for me to ignore and not to address these difficult times that the COVID-19 pandemic has bought upon, suddenly we have found ourselves in a position of unsettling frailty.

As I'm writing this editorial, most city's streets are empty. Cinemas, theatres, museums are collecting dust as they remain closed for the foreseeable future. Sporting events, conferences, concerts, and celebrations have been cancelled. No weddings, no festivities, not even funerals. We have been asked to stay home, work from there, and not leave it unless strictly necessary. We should see this as the jarring image that it is, but, perhaps we should also see this as an opportunity to just *slow down*.

We live in a highly globalised world. Many of our children grew up listening to us singing "It's a small world after all" (a popular nursery rhyme), yet, perhaps, we were never fully aware of how small it truly would become. The ease with which both people and objects are chartered to all corners of the world has completely shifted the boundaries we live in, and the speed with which a new virus has spread across the globe is a warning we must all take in our stride.

Maybe we're just rehearsing for future similar emergencies, hopefully not. However, it is certainly time to strengthen our national health services and to consider health care as a top priority and a basic right of our communities ("With coronavirus, 'health care for some' is a recipe for disaster" *The New York Times* 2020/03/06). I'm sure that pages and pages will be written on this pandemic, once it is over. The aftermath of this tragedy will probably see a shift in our habits and in the way we use the technological advances we have gained this past century. Perhaps we will also learn to change our behaviour by acknowledging our common ancestry and accepting that our home is not the house we live in, nor the country we reside in, but rather this one and only planet we should share with more care, solidarity and mutual support.

On that note, and with the hope that these thoughts of mine haven't dampened our days further, I'll move on to information regarding this *JEAHIL* issue and the imminent *EAHIL* elections.

As you may know, the March issue is usually a no-theme issue, comprising a selection of original articles on a variety of different topics pertinent to the core *EAHIL* interests. In this 2020 March issue, you will find three articles and a brief note of great interest: Lotta Haglund addresses a case study of the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences (GIH) Stockholm, Sweden; Sabine D. Klein focuses on a survey on student's preferences at the University of Zurich, Switzerland; and Grace A. Ajuwon et al. showcase the lessons learnt in hosting an *AHILA* conference in Ibadan, Nigeria. A brief note by Julian Hirt and Thomas Nordhausen about systematic searching in the open access model is also available.

Maurella Della Seta's Letter from the President keeps us up to date on the association's activities, particularly regarding the President and Board elections. Please read the Letter and the attached form by Marshall Dozier carefully! The deadline for nominations is the 24th of April 2020. Voting will be held between the 4th and 31st of May 2020.

Maurella has officially retired from ISS and I am sure that all members of EAHIL are with me in wishing her the best of luck and a happy retirement, with the happy knowledge that she will continue her precious activities within EAHIL, lending her experience and professionalism to the sector.

In this issue you will also find a report by Tiina Heino "Artificial Intelligence: what is it and what does it do?" and the usual columns by Dianne Babski and Carol Lefebvre, Letizia Sampaolo. I wish to thank them all for sharing with us their news about the NLM, the US MLA and the new publications and products.

As for the future *JEAHIL* issues, Michelle Schaffer (University of Bern, Switzerland), has kindly accepted the invitation from the Editorial Board, as proposed by Gerhard Bissels, and agreed to guest edit the June issue of *JEAHIL* that will host original articles on the theme of "Library spaces". Please write to Michelle if you wish to contribute. Her email address is: michelle.schaffer@ub.unibe.ch

Whilst hoping this pandemic will soon be contained, I wish you all good health and good spirits.

"Andrà tutto bene"
(All will be well)
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