

Pharma Information during COVID-19



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We have been living with a unique pandemic crisis since 1919 - during the 1st World War there was a pandemic called Spanish flu, from the name of the country where the pandemic effect of the virus was firstly reported. To maintain morale, World War I censors minimized early reports of illness and mortality in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. Newspapers were free to report the epidemic's effects in neutral Spain, this gave rise to the name "Spanish" flu. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. There are many types of human coronaviruses, including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. It is causing many deaths and stress in sub intensive and intensive care department in country hospitals world-wide.

In the north of Italy, we experienced the most dramatic scenario I have never seen in my life!

All of us, in all European countries and all over the world, have to cope with this new crisis and be active in different ways, to know and inform then about COVID-19.

Since February, we have been collecting different information and developed new competencies - a new job style to be ready to support with answer against an unknown enemy (some of us from home, others in place but all ready to answer). I would like to list all the special initiatives and the references that the European Library services are offering to patrons, they are all super, I cannot mention all. Let me give only some examples starting from the north part of Europe. I do appreciate the Norwegian Institute of Public health live map on COVID-19 evidence, in collaboration with Cochrane Belgium and Red Cross (all the collaborations are listed in the web site <https://www.fhi.no/en/qk/systematic-reviews-hta/map/>). The survey promoted and sent to EAHIL members from Alicia Gomez, María García-Puente, Rebeca Isabel to know how health librarians are contributing to the current pandemic, and the emerged initiatives related to COVID-19. And the last, the Italian GIDIF-RBM initiative with "day by day post" or "knowledge drops" to accompany colleagues in such a difficult time. In the institutional web site, there are, ready to copy and paste, sets of search queries according to the different database syntax (PubMed, Embase, Scopus or Web of Science and so on) or links to useful websites. You can find practical information about pharma company initiative and drug development status, useful and reliable resources for patients & citizens in the COVID-19 era and how to avoid fake news about it. There are also some videos about history of medicine: pandemic during ages, and why we have to wash our hands.

All of you did a great job!

Dear colleagues hoping you are all safe, I'm looking forward to seeing you soon. #stayhealthy #stayinformed.

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