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EDITORIAL

COVID-19: The nemesis of the 21st Century

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared, on January 30, 2020, that the outbreak of the disease caused by the new Coronavirus, called COVID-19, constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Importance - this being the highest WHO's alert level. This designation was previously used only on five occasions: Swine flu H1N1 (2009), Polio (2014), Zika (2016) and Ebola (2014 and 2019). On March 11, 2020, COVID-19 was then characterized by WHO as a pandemic. (https://www.paho.org/bra/)

Disrupting health systems and the economy of the affected countries, the new disease COVID-19 has become the greatest social, economic and medical challenge of modern times.

How to face an invisible enemy that manifests itself in multiple ways? It triggers the most diverse organic responses, some benign, harmless; others highly lethal, with severe generalized organic functional impairment?

Democratic in infectivity, not differentiating the rich from the poor, with no preference for sex, ethnicity or religious belief, but immensely anti-democratic in the suffering that affects much more intensely the needy populations around the World, unable to withstand even greater punishment.

The results of the prophylactic and therapeutic measures employed by groups in the various countries that were and still are as the epicenter of the disease, are surrounded by scientific and political controversies. A consensus has not yet been reached. It is only known that many recover from mild and insignificant symptoms and some, particularly in the group at higher risk (the elderly, those with concomitant diseases), progress to death, despite the quality and quantity of treatment received.

Moving show of solidarity has been revealed. Doctors and other health service providers overwhelmed by the effort to save lives are among those who are most contaminated and succumb, but remain firm, respecting the solemn oath to do everything for their patient, no matter the risk. True heroes!

Crisis, no matter how severe, end. Science prevails, even if the paths of knowledge are tortuous and subject to deviations and setbacks and, there, a little further on, there will certainly be light at the end of the tunnel.

Critical moments forge stronger men and women and more tolerant and inclusive societies and Residência Pediátrica (*Pediatric Residence*) journal opens its space for the dissemination of new ideas that make it possible to fill the gaps and that lead to better clinical control and better control of spread of the infection.

Once again, Residência Pediátrica, together with all the other groups that are looking for an efficient and quick solution to this distressing problem, wishes that better days arrive soon with the lowest possible social cost.

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