Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.
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Coronavirus Disease: 4 Million Cases Worldwide and the Importance of Multidisciplinary Health Care Teams During the Pandemic

Dear Editor:

On May 12, 2020—International Nurses Day—4 million cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) were recorded, with a total of 292,000 deaths worldwide. Brazil, at that point, recorded a total of approximately 178,000 cases and 12,404 deaths caused by the disease. At that period in time, Brazil appeared in the seventh position regarding number of cases, sixth in number of deaths, and second in number of active and serious cases (N = 8,318), with a low number of real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) examinations per million inhabitants (N = 3,459).1,2

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a multidisciplinary health care team (nurses, biologists, nutritionists, physiotherapists, medical doctors, pharmacists, and psychologists), working exhaustive and continuous hours, is acting intensively to promote a better outcome for all patients with COVID-19, mainly those in intensive care units. Health professionals take all the steps involved in the treatment of patients with COVID-19, after the diagnosis by RT-PCR, by providing medical support during ventilatory maneuvers as well as psychological support to the patients and their relatives, mainly in cases of deaths. The multidisciplinary health care team should be better recognized for its actions during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
Several countries around the world, including Brazil, have acknowledged multidisciplinary health care teams for their heroism during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a stressful time. However, in Brazil, there have been some isolated cases of aggression toward health professionals, arising mainly from differences over political opinions, fear of contamination by contact with health professionals, fear of the spread of the disease by professionals who work directly with patients infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), credibility of pharmacological treatments still undergoing efficacy tests, ignorance of the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, and disagreement over ideologies linked to political issues. For example, an episode of aggression toward nurses occurred during a silent protest on Labor Day (celebrated in May in Brazil) regarding the number of deaths from COVID-19, and this episode was linked to political issues.

In many countries or regions worldwide, multidisciplinary health care teams are under intense stress as they work continuously to deal with the high number of patients with COVID-19 and the need to optimize the number of RT-PCRs and number of beds in intensive care units; moreover, these professionals are dealing with a high number of deaths of patients, health professional colleagues, and, perhaps, relatives. In some cases, health professionals are isolated from their familiar environments to avoid the contamination of their relatives by SARS-CoV-2, mainly if the relatives are older or present with comorbidities, both groups recognized as “at risk” for the disease. The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenge to health professionals, and the community should recognize their heroism and the importance of all members of multidisciplinary health care teams.

On May 18, 2020, the International Council of Nurses reported a total of 360 deaths of nurses caused by COVID-19. On May 20, 2020, Brazil’s Conselho Federal de Enfermagem (Federal Nursing Council) declared a total of 138 deaths (111 confirmed cases and 27 suspicious cases) of nurses caused by COVID-19, representing 138/360 (38.33%) of all deaths of nurses by COVID-19 disease.

Brazil, on May 20, 2020, had 15,923 cases of nurses with COVID-19, representing 138/360 (38.33%) of all deaths of nurses by COVID-19 disease. The loss of these professionals can result in more deaths because of the difficulty of providing treatment to all patients with COVID-19, mainly in places where the contagion rate is as high as it is in Brazil, and many health professionals are needed to optimize treatment.

Multidisciplinary health care teams are responsible for keeping patients alive, mainly in severe cases of COVID-19, including millions of people worldwide. As declared by Marson, "We miss that global hug;" however, we need to thank our health professionals for giving us the opportunity to dream about that global hug after the pandemic.—Camila Vantini Capasso Palamim, MS, researcher, Laboratory of Cell and Molecular Tumor Biology and Bioactive Compounds and Laboratory of Human and Medical Genetics, São Francisco University, Bragança Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil, ORCID identifier: http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6825-1154; and Fernando Augusto Lima Marson, PhD, professor, Laboratory of Cell and Molecular Tumor Biology and Bioactive Compounds and Laboratory of Human and Medical Genetics, São Francisco University, Bragança Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil, ORCID identifier: http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4955-4234; E-mail: fernandolimamarson@hotmail.com and fernando.marson@usf.edu.br

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