Scientific Letters

Editorial

The Brightness of Multidisciplinary Approaches in Health Sciences Research

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On behalf of the Editorial Team of the *Scientific Letters* journal, we are pleased to announce the publication of the second issue.

The second issue comprises four scientific papers, encompassing two reviews and two research articles. In the inaugural contribution, Ferreira, Alves, Oliveira, Coelho, Oliveira, and de Melo Alves conducted a study in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the challenges posed by the shortage of viral transport medium [1]. A new viral transport medium was developed and tested with samples from the nasopharynx and oropharynx swabs and saliva. The findings suggest that saliva samples, when collected and optimized appropriately, can serve as a viable substitute for standard sample collection methods, providing concordant results in terms of sensitivity and specificity. This has implications for enhancing diagnostic capabilities during a public health crisis.

The second paper, by Maziere and Rompante, is a review article focused on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) [2]. DMD stands out as one of the most severe inherited forms of muscular dystrophies, arising from mutations in the dystrophin gene. These mutations result in a gradual breakdown of muscle fibers and subsequent weakness. The authors conducted an integrative systematic review to assess the impact of interventions on DMD mutations. Their conclusions emphasize that a more comprehensive understanding of how interventions influence DMD mutations can be achieved by merging information from non-randomized and randomized studies. This nuanced comprehension is further enriched through the analysis of DNA and advancements in biomolecular science. Collectively, these insights establish the groundwork for therapies that directly impact our ability to predict the progression of the disease over time.

The third paper, by Cunha, Silva, Rocha, and Queirós, is a review that underscores the challenge of understanding metabolic changes in cancer cells, emphasizing the Warburg effect's role in increased glycolysis [3]. Metabolic reprogramming is identified as essential for cell survival, proliferation, and resistance to antitumor compounds. The review suggests that targeting altered metabolism with glycolytic inhibitors such as 3-bromopyruvate, 2-deoxyglucose, and sodium dichloroacetate could offer new therapeutic strategies by modifying cell metabolism and the tumor microenvironment.

The fourth paper is a study conducted by Alves and Pinto da Costa, addressing the global issue of child abuse, and emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach involving healthcare professionals, including dentists, in prevention and detection [4]. The authors proposed a comprehensive form for Portuguese Dentists to document medical history and physical examinations in suspected child abuse cases. The developed tool, named Child Abuse Dental Report Form, incorporates seven sections covering mandated reporting, victim's information, involved parties, oral examination details, injury coding, dental characteristics, and additional information.

In 2023, *Scientific Letters* also published two special issues in the form of Books of Abstracts. These publications compile all abstracts that were accepted for presentation at the II TOXRUN International Congress, held on 27-28 April 2023 in Porto, Portugal, and the II UNIPRO International Congress, held on 01-02 June 2023 in Porto, Portugal [5,6]. The journal will remain a partner for the upcoming edition of these congresses.

This second issue is greatly indebted to numerous individuals. Thanks are due to the IUCS-CESPU Publishing team that supported us during this initial phase of the journal. Many thanks to all members of the Editorial Team for their belief in this exciting project, and the Reviewers that deeply ameliorated the raising of the excellence of our papers. We express our sincere gratitude to our authors, for their dedication, and to our readers, for applying the knowledge to drive innovation. We want to encourage you for a continued support, by submitting and reviewing high quality papers and by citing them elsewhere. Thanks to the efforts of our reviewers in 2023, the median time to first decision was 46.75 days and the median time to publication was 80.25 days [7]. A special thanks to Dr. Joana Barbosa for diligently performing the challenging task of copyediting, and to Drs. Patrícia Silva and Virgínia Gonçalves for their efficient work as Production Editors. We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Rui Azevedo, the Administrative Editor of the journal website, for his unwavering support and for ensuring the timely completion of various administrative tasks.

Finally, we intend to add "Clinical Case Studies" and "Commentaries" to the list of article types that the journal publishes. Further details will be provided in the next issue.

We hope you enjoy reading this second issue and find these articles useful for your research. We invite you to submit your best papers for publication.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no competing interests.

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