



## Mental Health, Islam, Clinical Issues and COVID-19

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### Abstract

In this fifth issue of the *Journal of Religion and Health* for 2022, four key themes are revisited: (1) mental health, (2) Islam, (3) various clinical issues relating to religiosity and/or spirituality and (4) the ongoing concerns of COVID-19.

**Keywords** Mental health · Islam · Clinical issues · COVID-19

### Introduction

Two special sections of *JORH* previously considered the topic of mental health (*JORH*, 60:4, 2021; *JORH* 61:1, 2022), another *JORH* issue considered Islam (*JORH*, 60:2, 2021), and an assortment of clinical practice issues was also presented earlier this year (*JORH*, 61:1, 2022). Finally, similar to previous issues throughout 2020 and 2021, this issue again considers various religious concerns related to COVID-19.

### Mental Health

The present issue of *JORH* commences with: (i) the importance of including the spiritual domain within mental health care; (ii) a scoping review on bipolar disorder, religion and spirituality; (iii) examination of a national US sample regarding dignity, attachment to God and mental health; (iv) prayers and mindfulness in relation to mental health among first-generation immigrant and refugee Muslim women in the US; (v) religious and spiritual support in mental health treatment expectations in Mexico; (vi) religious coping and distress among outpatients with psychosis in Singapore; (vii) depression and religious coping among patients with acute coronary syndrome in Turkey; and (viii) perceptions of divine forgiveness, religious comfort

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and depression in psychiatric inpatients. Finally, this section concludes by considering ‘forgiveness,’ an important element for improving mental health. Consequently, studies in this issue explored (ix) the indirect effects of forgiveness on psychological health through anger and hope; (x) forgiveness and the protective role of religiosity on psychological distress among inmates; and (xi) motivations for forgiving an offender, all with practical implications for those in the helping professions.

## Islam

For a variety of reasons over the past decade, there has been a substantial increase in articles from Islamic authors published in Western journals. While the primary goal has been to gain Western recognition of authors undertaking research relating to Muslims, these studies have also sought to promote the ideals of Islam. Similar to submissions from non-Muslim authors, the quality of this research varies enormously. While some submissions are written from a narrow parochial perspective, others include valuable empirical quantitative and/or qualitative research which can benefit national and international communities.

The present issue considers: (i) global research trends of health-related publications on Ramadan fasting from 1999 to 2021; (ii) information on doing health research with Muslim communities in Aotearoa New Zealand from a study on health and Ramadan; (iii) exploring the concept of spiritual sensitivity from the perspectives of healthcare providers in Iran; (iv) spiritual care among hospitalized patients in Iran; (v) an Islamic holistic therapy for reducing fear; (vi) modulation of heart and brain function by Surah Al-Rehman recitation among distressed diabetic patients in Pakistan; (vii) a new model of Islamic thought related to indicators of sensory and intellectual thinking rooted in clinical psychology, psychotherapy, and spiritual health; (viii) the effect of religious coping on satisfaction with life among Turkish patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; (ix) the effectiveness of spiritual counseling on increasing hope in Iranian patients with myocardial infarction; (x) the relationship between alexithymia, psychological well-being and religious coping among fibromyalgia patients in Turkey; (xi) acceptance of illness and religious coping in patients with familial Mediterranean fever in Turkey; and finally, (xii) knowledge mapping of articles related to the application of the Quran and Islamic Hadiths in health care.

## Clinical Issues

As in *JORH* 61:1, clinical issues relating to religiosity/spirituality within the present issue concern: (i) spiritual well-being in patients with chronic diseases; (ii) medication adherence and cardiovascular diseases; (iii) coping with pain and spiritual well-being in surgical patients; (iv) religiosity and religious coping in patients with COPD; (v) religiosity and mobility among patients suffering from paralysis due to spinal cord injuries; (vi) obesity and weight loss in the US; (vii) prayer among people living with HIV in the US; (viii) religion and Neurological Conditions in New Brunswick and Manitoba; (ix) religion and substance use disorders among Latinx

individuals; and (x) a study examining critical close reading of ‘vocation’ among evangelical medics in England.

## COVID-19

While COVID-19 has substantially abated due to the development of vaccinations, this condition has continued to wreak havoc in many regions and has affected many aspects of life around the world, including religion and spirituality. This issue presents research which explores and reflects on the effects of the continuing pandemic: (i) religion, Islam, and compliance with COVID-19 best practices; (ii) congregational worship and COVID-19 preventive measures during the re-opening phase of worship places in Indonesia; (iii) investigation of the relationship between the spiritual orientation and psychological well-being among inpatients with a diagnosis of COVID-19 In Turkey; (iv) coping, meaning making and resilience within the Dutch Reformed Pietist Community during COVID-19; (v) the role of religion and religiosity in health care during the COVID-19 lockdown in Egypt, Poland and Romania; (vi) factors affecting Australian Catholics’ return to mass after COVID-19 church closures; and (vii) rituals of contagion in Amish and Mennonite religious communities in the US during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Call for Papers

The *JORH* Editors hope you gain professional benefits from this issue of *JORH* and welcome new submissions regarding ‘Chaplaincy,’ ‘Judaism’ and/or ‘Suicide’ for future issues. Researchers who would like to make submissions on these topics or other topics relating to religion and health, please email one of the Editors as soon as possible or submit via the Editorial Manager on the *JORH* web site: <https://www.springer.com/journal/10943/submission-guidelines>.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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