Special thanks to reviewers for 2020: the COVID-19 year of trial by fire

Elena N. Naumova¹

Accepted: 3 April 2021 / Published online: 3 May 2021

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature Limited 2021

For so many of us, it was difficult and challenging year with the high toll of the pandemic on human lives, health, wellbeing, economic losses and lost opportunities. Yet, we have also learned creative ways from each other to build and sustain compassion, endurance, resilience, and support. During the worldwide lockdowns many of our readers have had to master new work from home environments and remote communication strategies. Likewise, we have mastered zoom-meetings across continents with the editorial, management, typesetters, and production teams in UK, US, Germany, and India.

Late February of 2020, right before the WHO declared the pandemic, the *Journal of Public Health Policy* (JPHP) switched to a new manuscript management system supported by Springer Nature Publishing. This system offers better functionality, tracking, and sharing with our readers, reviewers, and the members of Editorial Board. We tackled this transition with the help of Jessica Torr, Meghan Hartwick, and Katherine Chabalko, while Phyllis Freeman was wrapping up the submissions received via the old system.

In 2020, we received **570** submissions from more than **72** countries. We received ten or more submissions from the contributors residing in United States of America (119), China (69), India (62), the United Kingdom (26), Turkey (20), Iran (19), Australia (14), Pakistan (14), Japan (13), Korea (South) (13), Spain (11), Italy (10) and Bangladesh (10). Authors from Algeria, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam who contributed three or more manuscripts (see Fig. 1).

As the venue for public health professionals, we felt the impact of the pandemic on the content and focus of submissions to the *Journal* this year. In March of 2020 we set up the Topical Collection on Public Health Response to COVID-19 and as

✉ Elena N. Naumova
elena.naumova@tufts.edu

¹ Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston, USA

Fig. 1 *JPHP* received three or more manuscripts from 40 countries in 2020

of 25 March 2021 we have published 15 original articles, Viewpoints, and Letters to the Editors highlighting the challenges, recommendations, and achievements of public health professionals. As expected, many our contributors and reviewers experienced the pressure of being on the frontline and we are immensely thankful for their committed time and dedication.

We thank the constructive guidance and timeliness provided by **145** reviewers who completed **195** reviews over the past year. Our reviewers' pool represents five continents and includes **26** countries: Australia, Canada, Ecuador, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Lebanon, Nepal, The Netherland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, and USA. We would like to express our gratitude to:

Naglaa El Abbadi	Barbara Haesler	Elize Massard da Fonseca
Muhammad A J Adnan	Meghan Hartwick	Stephen A. McCurdy
Andrea Acevedo	Furqan Hashmi	Elly Mertens
Mark A Gottlieb	James Hawdon	Joel Mintz
Mehdi Ahmadi	Marie Hayes	Alicia Monroe
Chiara Altare	Patrick Hemming	Robert D. Morris
Oyedolapo Anyanwu	Erin Hennessy	Carles Muntaner
Francisco Armada	Eve J. Higginbotham	Emil Nasritdinov
Shelly Arora	Ellen T. Hoen	Poonam Nayar
Glory O. Atilola	Aida Hoteit	Keith Neal
Dhan Bahadur Shrestha	Jayne Hutchinson	Jesus Andree Neyra Leon
Naheed Banu	Kenneth Kalu	Mohamed O. Nour
Fran Baum	Anita Kar	Rosalie Pacula
Ryan Benner Simpson	Laura G. Kehoe	Sukri Palutturi
Debanjan Bhattacharya	Osnat Keidar	Apurva Kumar Pandya
Leslie I. Boden	Elizabeth King	Lidia Panico
Lee Breckenridge	Janni Kinsler	Ganeshkumar Parasuraman
James Chauvin	Deborah Kochevar	Kee Park
Jamie Chriqui	Patrick Marius Koga	Parveen Parmar
Alessandro Colombo	Lloyd J. Kolbe	Wendy Parmet
Laura Corlin	Karen Kosinski	Enrico Pavignani
Ron Crump	Alexandra Kulinkina	Farrukh Qureshi
Tess Boley Cruz	Dolly Kumari	Rayan Jo Rachwan
Adolfo Cuevas	Shyama Kuruvilla	Chris Rees
Ghassan Daher	Irina Kuznetsova	Aaron Reeves
Andrew Day	Ana Langer	Thomas Ricketts
Richard A. Daynard	Breanne Langlois	Judit Rius Sanjuan
Loren De Freitas	Breanne K. Langlois	Robin Robinson
Akira Ehara	Gideon Lasco	Beth Rosenberg
Ahmed Elsharkawy	David Legge	Oliver Rubin
Elizabeth Erdman	Rago Lembit	Indranil Saha
Luis Eugenio Portela	Peter Levine	Rajiv Sarkar
Fernandes de Souza	Xiuting Li	Stephen Schoenbaum
Ramón Feenstra	Lawrence Liberti	Jodi Segal
María Fernanda Vinueza-Veloz	Gitanjali Singh	Fernando Sempértegui
Erin Fredericks	Michael Sinha	Rajib Shaw
Phyllis Freeman	Yei-Whei Lin	Changwoo Shon
María Teresa García-Nieto	Martha Livingston	Nothemba Simelala
Aythamy Gonzalez-Darias	Eric Lofgren	Steven Stack
Julie Rowlet	Marian MacDorman	Thomas J Stopka
Subrata Roy	Nithin Manchery	Alison Talbert
Indrajit Gowdar	Gerald Markowitz	Bikash Bikram Thapa
Michelle Grant	Anastasia Marshak	Alex van den Heever
		Susan Van Katwyk

Maria F. Vinueza-Veloz	Cassandra White	Danyuo Yiporo
Marianne Vyas	Roy Widdus	Helen Young
Deborah K. Walker	Norbert L. W. Wilson	Ngoyi Zacharie Bukonda
Mary White	John Wooding	Jonathan Zenilman
	Yiqing Xu	Bingjie Zhou

My first year as Editor-in-Chief has taught me valuable lessons—to treasure the resilience and wisdom of my colleagues, to nurture talents and to remain optimistic. I was moved and impressed by the reviewers' thoughtfulness and authors' responsiveness to comments and suggestions, by the enthusiasm of investigators and practitioners starting their career, and perseverance of scientists for whom this pandemic was just the next on the list. The submissions of this year touched a broad range of topics that will be relevant for generations to come. Among many are: climate change and health equity, vaccination hesitancy, health of refugees and migrant workers, misinformation and health communication, microbial resistance, domestic violence and opioid surge. In times of crises, the deficiencies of systems that disfavor or threaten people exploited for a long list of reasons, including social status, religious beliefs, native tongue, skin color, or sexual orientation reveals persistent structural inequalities. These inequalities have deep historical roots. Each act of injustice, violence, economic deprivation, or environmental degradation toward one sown the seeds of future inequality for many. I will keep the *Journal* attuned to the voices of those who seek solutions, offer suggestions, try and fail and try and succeed. It is my continued hope that despite the challenges of a given day "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous" (as attributed to Aristotle).

Elena N. Naumova, Editor-in-Chief

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.