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It is my pleasure to be invited to write the editorial for this issue of *Minima Medica*. The year 2020 will certainly remain synonymous with the COVID-19 pandemic, with all its repercussions on healthcare and society at large. More than ever, the power of social media has led to the birth of infodemiology, which is the study of dealing with a new phenomenon: the infodemic, ie the spread of mis-information. The way the media has been reporting the happenings related to the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to spread correct information, particularly related to healthcare. Certainly one way of spreading the correct information is through peer-reviewed scientific literature, which medical students and future doctors still need to critically appraise.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left many victims, and one serious side-effect has been the adverse effect on mental health. It is important to keep in mind the holistic wellbeing of every individual, as outlined in the article 'Further from the COVID-19 Pandemic: A New Health Crisis?'. Mental health is of utmost importance, and this has come to the forefront particularly in recent times. Neurological conditions are also dealt with in this issue, in articles such as 'Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 2 and its association with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis', 'Phantom Limb Syndrome', 'Parkinson's Disease' and 'Frontotemporal Dementia Case Report'.

Cancer is still generating a huge burden for citizens, cancer survivors and their families, and for health systems and society at large. Many more people are living with cancer as the result of an ageing population, unhealthy lifestyles, and unfavourable social, environmental and working conditions. This has prompted the European Union to make it one of its missions to fund more research related to cancer under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027): https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/conquering-cancer-mission-possible_en. In this edition, cancer is of course one of the topics, through articles such as: 'Bloom Syndrome: an example of how genomic instability leads to cancer'; 'The effects of different diets on Colorectal Cancer'; and 'Vitamin D Receptor and Cancer'. Having a healthy diet and lifestyle is also very important for managing irritable bowel syndrome as well as preventing colorectal cancer, as mentioned in two of the articles.

Fetal development and neonatology are also important topics which are dealt with in two other articles, namely 'Neonatal Hypoglycemia: A review' and 'Pathophysiology of Hydrops Fetalis'. Despite all the material which needs to be covered in the medical curriculum, embryology still plays a very integral part in understanding intrauterine development and the impact after birth, both in the short- and long term, and even in future generations of the offspring.

The COVID-19 has led to dramatic changes in education, with the distinctive rise of e-learning, whereby teaching and learning is undertaken remotely. Student self-learning, by undertaking research, increases retention of information, and using digital platforms, can lead to sharing of this information through peer teaching. That is why initiatives taken up by medical students such as Minima Medica, are highly commendable and encouraged. Keep it up!

