JSP
Journal of Suicide Prevention
https://isssp.ir
OPEN ACCESS
Vol. 1. 2019. *Article ID: e2019001*

Editoral

The birth of a new suicidology journal: The Journal of Suicide Prevention (JSP)

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Cite this article as:
RezaeianM. The birth of a new suicidology journal: The Journal of Suicide Prevention (JSP). J Suicid Prevent.2019 (Feb);1:1-2. e2019001.
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Introduction

I am delighted to write the first editorial for the first issue of the Journal of Suicide Prevention (JSP). It should be remembered that suicidal behavior is amongst the most important public health issues all over the world. Suicide is the 13thleading cause of death worldwide [1], so that only in 2012 we had almost 804,000 suicide deaths globally [2].

Studies on different aspects of suicidal behavior are already appeared in some internationally known journals such as Archive of Suicide Research, Crisis, Suicide & Life-threatening Behavior, and Suicidology Online. Following these pioneered journals, given the critical issue of suicidal behavior, we are celeberating the birth of Journal of Suicide Prevention (JSP). JSP is initiated and supported by the Iranian Scientific Society for Suicide Prevention (ISSSP). We have high hope that the journal will provide a strong platform for discussing diverse aspects of suicide behavior, especially, from the prevention point of view.

It is worth emphasizing that in spite of the advancement in suicide prevention worldwide, we still encounter many challenges some if them including "the accuracy and reliability of suicide statistics", "insufficient resources", "ineffective coordination", "lack of enforcement of guidelines", "limited access to surveillance data" and "lack of independent and systematic evaluations" [3].

Our primary focus will be on the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) of the World Health Organization (WHO). The EMR consists of 22 countries that include: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestin, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The EMR has a unique characteristic and that is most of the countries within the region have an Islamic background and are affected by different wars, armed conflicts, social unrest, natural disasters, etc. [4].This means that especial attention should be paid to the mental health issues within the region. In terms of suicide epidemiology, the countries within the region also have unique patterns which are worth further investigation [5-8].

The EMR, however, is just one of the six regions of WHO and certainly there are lessons in suicide prevention that each region can learn from other regions. Therefore, notwithstanding our primary focus we are open to receive any relevant submissions from around the world.

For all these reasons, I would like to emphasize that we are committing to publish all worthy and relevant types of articles including original, systematic review, meta-analysis, narrative review, brief communication, commentary, letter to the editor, editorial, book review, film review, etc.

We have a distinguished international editorial board and entrust ourselves to a fast peer review process. Therefore, we hope that you keenly share your eligiable works with your colleagues through JSP vehicle.

As the editor-in-chief, I am eagerly looking forward to receiving your valuable contributions.

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