

Editorial

Local and regional diseases have been converted into global health problems. Distances have been shortened and we live now in a big village of 5 districts, rather than 5 continents.

Global Journal of Epidemiology and Public Health is a peer reviewed journal committed to publish articles about Epidemiology of infectious and non-infectious diseases all over the world, together with hot topics in Public Health. Although these articles describe and analyze local and/or regional health problems, the external validities of these articles are the main concern of the journal.

Patient culture safety is the first topic in this issue. It is a very important subject, especially in developing countries. Studying patient culture safety in Primary Healthcare, rather than in specialized centers and referral hospitals, is a relevant new topic.

Although smoking is responsible for about one-fifth of cancer mortalities worldwide, the prevalence of tobacco smoking is still high especially in developing countries. Migration from developing countries augmented the number of tuberculosis cases in developing countries with low endemicity of tuberculosis. Mathematical model to calculate the number of possible tuberculosis cases in the future is important. The second topic in that issue applies a mathematical model to predict the number of tuberculosis cases in a developed country taking into consideration the smoking habits of immigrants.

Finally, we could not ignore the current Zika virus Epidemic. Although the first case of Zika virus transmission in South America was reported in Chile in February 2013, alarms started with cases of microcephaly in Brazil in October 2015. The current epidemic has more questions than answers:

Why now? Zika virus was discovered in 1952.

Aedes aegypti is endemic in Madeira, Portugal. Is it possible a new epidemic in the European countries?

Is Zika virus disease a sexually transmitted disease?

Is fumigation safe? Could it be carcinogenic?

What will we do to help families with children with microcephaly?

We are facing a new epidemic without clear answers. Urgent plans and collaborations, under the umbrella of WHO, are strongly needed.

We hope readers of *Global Journal of Epidemiology and Public Health* enjoy new topics published in this issue and we invite them to submit their works to share them with colleagues working in the fields of Epidemiology and/or Public Health.

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