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EDITORIAL

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The second issue of 2021 of the Journal of Intercultural Management and Ethics offers its readers an ethical and cultural incursion into the issues facing medical practice and medical systems in Romania and other countries around the world today, accentuated or highlighted by the current pandemic of COVID-19.

COVID-19 pandemic is a challenge for medical systems around the world, caused by problems such as caring for patients in conditions of medical uncertainty, overcrowding of medical institutions, limited material or human resources or restricting the population's access to certain medical services. The introduction of the new COVID-19 vaccines also raises ethical issues from the perspective of their administration and allocation within the framework of the human rights and the principles of bioethics. Despite the difficult problems generated, the COVID-19 pandemic may still contribute to the development of the health system, by placing emphasis on the quality of medical services, ethical risk management and the enhancement of human development, as showed in one of the articles of this issue.

Beyond the pandemic context, medical practice continues to face “traditional” existing ethical issues, which in turn require adequate attention and intervention. Among them, in this issue of the Journal of Intercultural Management and Ethics the readers can find an analysis of the ethical issues associated with the process of institutionalization in the Republic of Moldova of children from families with tuberculosis, which emphasize the need for adequate protection of the children, based on their moral values and fundamental rights. Another problem approached in this issue is the care of terminally ill patients from the perspective of respecting their dignity. Therefore, respecting the dignity of terminally ill patients is crucial for providing adequate care. In the same time, the incorporation of the concept of human dignity in medical ethics educational programs for practitioners in the medical system becomes a stringent requirement.

Cultural factors, including religious ones, have an important impact on health systems and the health of the population. In this regard, this issue of the journal examines the link between the evangelical and charismatic religions and law in Uganda, as well as their implications for the public health system, bioethics and medical education. The analysis highlights the importance of efforts to counter the negative consequences in public health and ethics generated by the imposing of personal religious beliefs in politics and legislation, in order to improve the health of the population in this country.

This issue of the Journal of Intercultural Management and Ethics concludes with a reflection on the role and position of the physician in human society over time, which have remained constant despite the ever-changing historical and social context.