

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Post Covid-19 Era: Challenges and Opportunities

13-15 June 2022

Hybrid Conference, North Macedonia

CIP - Каталогизација во публикација
Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

3:[616.98:578.834-036.21(100)(062)(048.3)
008:[616.98:578.834-036.21(100)(062)(048.3)

INTERNATIONAL conference of social sciences and humanities (5 ; 2022 ;
North Macedonia)
Post Covid-19 Era [Електронски извор] : challenges and opportunities
: book of abstracts / 5 th International conference of social sciences
and humanities, 13-15 June 2022 Hybrid conference, North Macedonia ;
[editor Aleksandra Porjazoska Kujundziski]. - Skopje : International
Balkan university, 2022

Начин на пристапување (URL): <https://icssh.ibu.edu.mk/abstracts>. - Текст
во ПДФ формат, содржи 190 стр. - Наслов преземен од екранот. - Опис на
изворот на ден 13.06.2022. - Регистар

ISBN 978-608-4868-23-1

а) Општествени науки -- Ковид-19 -- Собири -- Апстракти б) Хуманистички
науки -- Ковид-19 -- Собири -- Апстракти

COBISS.MK-ID 57582597Book of Abstracts

5th International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities

Publisher:

International Balkan University

EDITOR:

Aleksandra Porjazoska Kujundziski, Prof. Dr.

DESIGN & DTP:

Damir Rahmani

Mehemed Erdem İşler (cover and back page design)

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Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

ISBN: 978-608-4868-23-1

War and Covid-19: Distance Medical Education in Period of War and Quarantine Period

Volodymyr Sulyma¹, Ruslan Duka², Iryna Polulyah-Chornovol³, Igor Verholaz⁴

¹*Volodyasulyma2@gmail.com*

Dnipro State Medical University, Dnipro, Ukraine

ABSTRACT

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army started a war and invaded Ukraine, disrupting the usual life, work and education of millions of people, leading to suffering, injury and death. Many Ukrainian medical students, and especially foreign students, have been forced to switch to distance learning, to which they partially adapted during the Covid-19 quarantine. Covid-19 has been declared as a pandemic disease by the WHO on March 11th, 2020. The disease started in Wuhan province in China in late December 2019. Since that time, the global incidence of Covid-19 disease has increased dramatically. Preparation of students at the Department of Surgery. Distance learning of students in conditions quarantines Covid-19 and war. The question of the use of this form of education in medical educational institutions remains controversial. On the one hand, the advantages of distance education are the possibility of teaching a large number of students at once, facilitating the educational process, in the case of teaching people with disabilities, adaptability - learning using modern software and hardware makes e-education more effective, also, usually, distance learning is cheaper than regular education. First of all, by reducing the cost of moving, living in another city, reducing the cost of organizing the courses themselves. Opponents of the use of distance education in medicine believe that mastering practical skills, which are the main component in training future medical workers, is impossible in this way. However, in our opinion, the use of this form of education in medical schools is not only possible, but necessary.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and period of war, the majority of the student have participated in distance learning in their medical schools. Further analysis of the non-participating students showed that 6th-year students were the least to be involved in distance learning as the majority of them have completed their academic courses before the war and Covid-19 curfew. With advances in technologies and social media, distance learning is a new and rapidly growing approach for undergraduate, postgraduate, and health care providers. Regardless of reported benefits, medical students preferred the blended approach in teaching as distance learning represented a major challenge to acquire adequate clinical medical skills. Naturally, training a doctor in practical skills requires traditional face-to-face contact, but all theoretical training and exercise in decision-making can take place remotely.

Keywords: *Distance; Medical; Education; Covid-19; War.*