

EDITORIAL

TIME-OUT



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Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, we wonder when everything will settle down. Lives have been lost... one too many, livelihoods disrupted, events cancelled, travel plans placed on the back burner and education halted. Our country has the highest number of cases in our part of the world. We had the longest lockdown too. When the lockdown was getting too long, calls from various sectors to ease the lockdown was pressing. A surge of cases was seen thereafter prompting the medical community to call for a time-out. The call for time-out was interpreted in various ways. Some agreed, some voiced-out dissent and many were passive. For the non-medical sector, the clamor was not to give in as the economy has been badly hit and prolonging the lockdown will beat up people's finances more. For some, they thought that the medical community was too lame to call for a time-out when it was what we signed-up for when we took the Hippocratic oath.

Time-out means a brief cessation or suspension of activity, for non-medical personnel or those not involved in any way with the ongoings of the pandemic, it came as though the call was because we are tired and we want to rest. For the medical group, the call was to suspend easing of the lockdown as it caused surge in cases and there isn't enough facilities to accommodate and handle them. For in reality, can the entire medical community be on a time-out? It's probably one of the fewest professions where if we did go on a time-out, lives lost would be countless. Food production can stop for a day, transportation groups can call for a strike, wars can have ceasefires, classes can be suspended and even places of worship can be closed down. But can we stop a mother from giving birth, an appendix from rupturing, an aneurysm from bursting ... many medical events can't be helped and they need immediate action for a life to be saved. Indeed, that is what we signed-up for when we chose our profession.

The same thing goes in our commitment to continue to educate. The pandemic doesn't give us an excuse to stop publishing, as important findings in science is paramount to stopping this pandemic, researches are ongoing and that is one of our only hope to get back into pre-COVID days. Continuing education, now available in many ways doesn't stop with a pandemic. Read on our latest issue as a way of continuously learning during this unprecedented time of our lives.