



From the Editor

Gretchen Birbeck, MD, MPH

Neurology Without Borders publishes experiences from neurologists on prevalent global health research and perspectives. A recent blog post, “HIV-infected adults with stroke in Botswana do as well as their HIV-uninfected peers but elevated stroke risks after ART initiation are confirmed in another African population,” discusses findings from 2 HIV and stroke studies in Africa.

The Without Borders blog also continues to bring together global expertise on COVID-19 and neurologic disease. In late April 2020 to May 2020, Invited Commentaries from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Milano, Italy, describe ongoing challenges and emerging crises in their countries. Shared emerging issues include managing burdened healthcare systems, treating chronic disease during the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for patients via telehealth, and strategizing postpandemic protocols.

Ricardo Allegri, MD, PhD, and Gustavo Sevlever, MD, PhD, describe their experiences in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in their Invited Commentary, “The elusive paradox: The woods behind the trees.” They explain that nearly the entire planet is encountering health system emergencies, economic depression, and distressing social situations. According to Drs. Allegri and Sevlever, neurologists, need to implement their best efforts despite the unprecedented situation and uncertainties: “It is paramount that neurologic disorders—especially noncommunicable neurologic disorders—do not become subsumed by this COVID-19 crisis and the response efforts.”

In “What happens to patients with epilepsy in the COVID-19 era? An Italian experience,” by Tiziana Granata, MD, and Francesca Bisulli, MD, PhD, the authors focus on how COVID-19 has severely impacted patient care in 2 epilepsy centers in Northern Italy. They describe how both centers were known to receive patient referrals from outside their region; however, COVID-19 has limited the movement of people, and currently, inpatient clinic visits are limited to emergencies. As the pandemic evolves and critical issues arise, Drs. Granata and Bisulli continue to strategize how to prioritize patients and provide the best care.

“Another critical issue was handling comorbidities, including disabilities. In patients with mental or psychiatric disabilities, the interruption of routine imposed by lockdown caused loss of acquired skills and autonomy and increased the burden on families,” said Drs. Granata and Bisulli.

Read the Without Borders blog to understand how COVID-19 is changing the global health landscape in 12 countries and stay abreast of science and politics in neurology around the world.



Blog

The COVID-19 Invited Commentaries are available on the Without Borders blog along with additional invited topical blog posts. [NPub.org/wbblog](https://www.npub.org/wbblog)

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