

Editor-in-Chief: Gian Stefano Spoto  
Scientific Editors: Alessandro Boccanelli e Laura Elena Pacifici Noja  
Registration no.: 103/2021, Ordinary Court of Rome  
2 issues per year  
ISBN: 978-88-9295-336-9  
Contributors: Letizia Bazoli, Mario Braga, Maria Gabriella Buzzi, Giancarlo Ceccarelli, Vincenzo Denicolò, Gabriella d'Ettorre, Valentina Floris, Simona Giampaoli, Angelo Meloni, Flavia Riccardo, Giovanni Ricevuti, Lorenzo Rossi, Renzo Rozzini, Amita Nigam Sahaya, Silvia Singia, Luisa Sodano, Ornella Spagnolello, Erika Tonoli, Angelica Varesi, Diego Vanuzzo  
No. 1 | issue 1 | 2021  
First edition December 2021

tab edizioni

© 2021 Gruppo editoriale Tab s.r.l.  
viale Manzoni 24/c  
00185 Roma  
[www.tabedizioni.it](http://www.tabedizioni.it)

Stampato da The Factory s.r.l.  
via Tiburtina 912  
00156 Roma  
per conto del Gruppo editoriale Tab s.r.l.

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# UniCamillus Global Health Journal

## UGHJ

edited by *Alessandro Boccanelli*  
and *Laura Elena Pacifici Noja*

no. 1 | issue 1 | December 2021

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# Grains of light

di Gian Stefano Spoto\*

It is true, UGHJ is not a beautiful title for a journal. It doesn't sound well, no one will remember it, and, if it were to be published on Tv and on social media, no one would notice it. It is an awkward acronym for a publication that, moreover, defines itself as a grain of sand. A grain of sand is indeed minuscule, but it has a wonderful gift for refraction.

It is even more minuscule, and it is extremely hard to find the right angle. However, if we patiently look for it and discover it, the really subtle ray of light that UGHJ transmits will find receptors ready to share in paths, even the less beaten ones. These paths will

serve to spread, among others, the idea of a right to health for everyone, a principle which we would like to draw away from the shade of demagogy, in a wish to dispel the taboos dear to the professional quitters.

Every publication has of course a director, and every director is a journalist. Especially when he/she is not also a scientist, he/she has to find encounter-clash meeting points with the scientific committee. While he/she would like to have scoops and paste-ups filled with the universe, they object that what is important is to find the latest topics for scientific, economic and political reflection in the pure (!) sense of the word. And maybe

they are even right.

They are right because they firmly believe, together with the director, in a scientific journal whose words don't necessarily cover the globe but which fit in by capturing and conveying those impulse, original by virtue of their sensitivity and sense of commitment.

Most of all, we are never intent on leading battles alone. We would like to share and welcome suggestions from all parts of the world, hence establishing dialogues and collaborations.

As regards the grain of light, we would really like to replicate it and to distribute it to all those who have an eye for different angles.

\* Editor-in-chief UGHJ.

# Why this new journal?

by Alessandro Boccanelli, Laura Elena Pacifici Noja\*

UGHJ comes into being during an extremely difficult time for humanity. However, as Bernard Henry Levy stated, it is in moments like these that “independence of spirit and intellectual salubrity are especially necessary”. Covid-19, despite its gravity, has led us to face the urgency of personalized and participatory healthcare, a global domain unrestricted by national boundaries.

It is necessary to consider that, despite the existence of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, pathologies other than Covid-19 have also recorded a significant increase on a global scale in the last two years. According to estimates

by the World Health Organisation, an extra 2.9 million people compared to 2019 now suffer from TB, without the disease being diagnosed or recorded by the national health authorities.

The Global Health (GH) was led to broaden its gaze to a scope which goes beyond the traditional views on lifestyles and on the promotion of individuals' health. The prevalently descriptive nature of GH is transforming itself into a predictive one, hence oriented towards the prevention of multiple potential pathologies. The perspective of GH mandatorily includes the analysis of social, political, economic and environmental phenomena, placing them in the geographical context where they arise.

It is in this environment that the new UGHJ journal took

place, with an inevitably interdisciplinary nature and covering themes which are complementary with one another. International health cooperation, social vulnerability, the great migratory flows and migrants' health, the vaccination issue, the use of new technologies in healthcare and their ethical impact – to cite only a few examples – are not independent variables. They are rather the building blocks of a single mosaic: that of global health. Every issue can be disassembled to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the single components, to then recompose it and obtain an overall view, in accordance with a recurring procedure in medical sciences.

One of the purposes of UGHJ is that of creating a tangible support system for those

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who will have to undertake changes and improvements in the healthcare sector. These include the decision makers, but also those in charge of giving advice and opinions, namely in the governance of priority-setting. Another objective, a more ambitious one if you will, is that of providing a “discussion room” to all those who consider global health to be one of the essential themes of our time.

The usefulness and vitality of the journal will depend on the imperative contribution not only of the world of academia and research, but also that of economics, business, healthcare and public administration, to the many sectors of which global health is comprised.

At the time we conceived the journal, the popular view was that the Coronavirus disease would be eradicated within a reasonable number of months

and our intent, during the development phase, was that of dealing mainly with the Covid-19 aftermath. We now realise that the issues to be solved are still too many, and that it is impossible to do it within a short time frame. Our intention to deal with the post-Covid-19 phase ultimately remains, but we cannot exempt ourselves from publishing articles which narrate this battle in its development, a battle which we are all fighting.

# Chronicles of a possible future

Reading into the pandemic and beyond

by Mario Braga, Flavia Riccardo\*

## Abstract

The emergence of a new virus (Sars-CoV-2) in 2019 and the consequent Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on societies and represents a moment of dramatic break and regression against the different issues posed by the SDG's. Dramatic consequences on a global level have been documented in terms of morbidity and mortality, both as direct and indirect effects of the Sars-CoV-2 infection, with profound consequences on economic progress, trust in governments, and social cohesion. This paper analyses the pandemic event from multiple angles specifically focussing on three mutually interconnected systems: healthcare, economies and society to try and identify elements that could shape possible post-pandemic evolution trends in policy and implementation models.

## 1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs), are 17 goals with 169 targets that all UN Member States have agreed upon to work towards achieving by the year 2030<sup>1</sup>. These have represented and represent a consensus on how we would like to change the world in order to ensure human beings a better, more equitable, sustainable and environmentally friendly future. However, progress towards the

achievement of most SDGs was already lagging behind in 2019 and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to slow down and, in some cases, reverse difficultly achieved improvements<sup>2,3</sup>. Why it is so hard to progress towards something so widely accepted?

This has at least in part to do with the fact that these goals interconnect with numerous elements of the complex adaptive systems that we call "society". For example, local conflicts, international financial and economic flows, migrations, pol-

lutions and the economic and social impact of trades have direct and indirect spill-over effects on each of the SDG's (Figure 1) and these, in turn, have a significant influence on each of these dimensions. This means, that achieving those goals inevitably impacts on lives and livelihoods, on conflicting priorities and interests consequently making their achievement less immediate. For this reason, documenting progress should not be taken for granted and recognised as a global achievement.

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