Preface

Coronavirus disease 2019 is a rapidly spreading pandemic that charged an extraordinary pressure on healthcare systems across the globe. The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly disrupted the scientific enterprise. Government leaders have begun to respond to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on researchers and economy. However, the pandemic appears to have deeply affected all of us in many different ways. There are substantial differences between scientists working in different disciplines and male and female researchers. Female scientists and scientists with young dependents reported that their ability to devote time to their research has been substantially affected. In the coming years, researchers may be less willing or able to pursue positions outside of their home country, which may emphasize the global differences in scientific capacity. Today, while everyone waits for a breakthrough of a specific COVID-19 therapy and an effective vaccine, many scientists have been redirecting their efforts into COVID-19-related research to build up our knowledge about this new disease. However, such situation raises concerns about the quality of the data produced and published, the conclusions presented by the authors, and the peer review by the editors, due to the pressure to publish information on COVID-19. The urgency of the outbreak suddenly appears to legitimize several limitations of studies, such as small sample sizes, lack of randomization or blinding, and unvalidated data and conclusions. A debate about the scientific quality of COVID-19 related research has emerged very fast. My duty as Editor-in-Chief of CBC, and of Editorial Board Members, is to be sure that the rigorous scientific standards.

I hope that in this year we could serve the academic community even better than in the past and make the difference in this tough situation.

I particularly thank all the Editorial office staff, Associate Editors, the Editorial Board Members, our reviewers and most of all our contributors.

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