“Misinformation and COVID-19”
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The coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic has paved the way to a wide range of research in the medical field. This has proven extremely challenging, as this elusive illness has been widely politicized, and many clinical studies have been misrepresented. Indeed, inadequate information has emerged from many sources, including peer-reviewed journals.

Misinformation is “false or inaccurate information, especially that which is deliberately intended to deceive”. Among the primary offenders of this misinformation, social media outlets have provided the means of interaction among people of different levels of education in virtual communities and networks. Social media has emerged as a way to interact with family and friends, and later, it was adopted for business purposes. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become evident that these networks lead to the emergence of a vast misinformation circulating in cyberspace, and the pandemic has clearly worsened it [1].

In the current situation of the pandemic, it is a major responsibility of the health care providers to direct people towards the trusted sources of information. Nevertheless, this is very difficult as there is no uniformity in the messages carrying the Covid-19 information. Certain organizations, for example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization, and a variety of journals focused on Covid-19, have proposed a series of recommendations. However, in many instances, these organizations have generated various different messages, resulting in causing extreme confusion among the general public. As a result, many individuals have headed towards social media outlets in search of the correct information [2].

One of the problems with social media is its original design. This outlet is a forum for opinions, where everyone is a self-appointed expert on everything (including COVID-19). Moreover, the pain and anxiety that occur during a pandemic only exacerbate by the spreading these “personal opinions”. Ever since the original inception of the internet and cyberspace, this has been a difficult issue [3]. Governments around the world are not geared up to control the dissipated information, as it requires and a number of people with adequate knowledge about specific topics to either approve or disapprove the post. Therefore, he last two years have portrayed an almost identical situation.

We do not believe we will ever fully eliminate misinformation or disinformation in social media. However, those of us who care about quality information have a duty to ensure that the factual data is correct. At Current Respiratory Medicine Reviews, we take these issues seriously. We believe all peer-reviewed journals must have the utmost ethical principles when accepting manuscripts for publication. This is particularly important in this age of misinformation. For every peer-reviewed article with useful data, we believe that there will be 1000 social media posts that provide inaccurate information. So, our group of reviewers and copyeditors must check the accepted manuscripts over and over again to ensure high-quality publications to avoid misinformation.

We hope that the reader will seek information from the trusted sources and avoid using social media outlets as means to obtain information related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding this manuscript.

REFERENCES