

EDITOR'S NOTE

ELLEN R. COHN

A SPECIAL ISSUE FOR CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES

Dear IJT Readers:

On May 13, 2022 we received a uniquely integrative and transformational article. Plus, it is notable that such an impressive contribution arrived from an institute in Kyiv, Ukraine in the midst of the country suffering a large-scale invasion that began on February 24, 2022.

The article describes how telerehabilitation is well suited to address the crisis of rehabilitation needs in Ukraine, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, the article presents a sophisticated clinical schema.

Managing an article submitted from Ukraine influenced the temporal aspects of the journal's editorial process. Our editorial/reviewer team committed to publish this submission as quickly as possible. Instead of several months, the staff rallied to complete the process within days. As temporary stewards of the work, we felt a collective responsibility to swiftly release the content to the worldwide telerehabilitation community. If the authors could produce such an outstanding article in the midst of unimaginable chaos, that was the least we could do.

We made one additional editorial decision: The authors had included photos of the research teams mentioned in the article. To protect those individuals' privacy, especially in the midst of an ongoing conflict, the photos were omitted from the article.

We thank Lauren Collister, Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication & Publishing, University of Pittsburgh Library System who swiftly enabled us to create a special issue in advance of the journal's usual Spring 2022 biannual issue. Gratitude also, to Senior Associate Editor Dr. Jana Cason for putting her other work aside to rapidly template the featured content.

We hope you will enjoy this special issue and will share our admiration for both the excellence of the content, and that the authors completed this scholarly work in the midst of challenging, war-time conditions.

More information about the distinguished author team follows.

With kind regards,

Ellen R. Cohn, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow

IJT Editor

ABOUT THE AUTHOR TEAM

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The results of this team's work have been presented at numerous forums and conferences, such as: All-Ukrainian Forum "Ukraine 30: Education and Science" and IDAACS'2021 2021 IEEE 11th International Conference on Intelligent Data Acquisition and Advanced Computing Systems: Technology and Applications.

The team also takes part in a project entitled "Development of the cloud-based platform for patient-centered telerehabilitation of oncology patients with mathematical-related modeling" under the auspices of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine. However, due to the war, the project had been interrupted.

Via an update from Corresponding Author Kyrylo S. Malakhov on May 20, 2022: "Despite the difficult economic situation in our country and the martial law, R&D in the field of telemedicine are being resumed. I am a member of the expert subgroup on technical issues and architecture of telemedicine within the Interdepartmental Working Group for the development of the concept of implementation of telemedicine in Ukraine. Therefore, we hope for the active development of telemedicine in Ukraine, in particular, telerehabilitation.