

Editorial for the Special Issue of the International Journal of Telerehabilitation

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that we present this Special Issue of the International Journal of Telerehabilitation, dedicated to the evolving field of telerehabilitation, particularly in the context of cancer care. As we navigate through a period of significant global challenges, the importance of remote healthcare delivery has never been more evident. This issue seeks to highlight the advancements in telerehabilitation technologies, methodologies, and their practical applications in various healthcare settings.

One of the major areas of focus in this Special Issue is the telerehabilitation of cancer patients, a topic that has gained substantial attention due to its potential to enhance patient outcomes, especially during times when traditional in-person care may be limited. In Ukraine, the wartime situation has created unique challenges, further limiting access to conventional rehabilitation services. The integration of telerehabilitation is therefore essential, offering a viable solution to continue essential care even in the most challenging circumstances.

Our ongoing research in this field is fundamental as it lays the foundation for future updates to the legislative framework surrounding telemedicine and telerehabilitation practices. As we implement these practices, we are committed to analyzing the effectiveness of these approaches and refining our strategies accordingly. *Telerehabilitation Guidelines for Patients with Breast Cancer* will continue to evolve based on the experiences and insights gained through this research, ensuring that it remains a relevant and effective tool for practitioners.

In this Special Issue, we are also pleased to introduce the *Telerehabilitation Guidelines for Patients with Breast Cancer (Ukrainian Language Edition)*. This edition represents a significant milestone in making essential rehabilitation resources accessible to healthcare professionals and patients in Ukraine, supporting the broader adoption of telerehabilitation practices within the country's healthcare system.

Furthermore, we are excited to present a viewpoint article titled *Theoretical Aspects of Transdisciplinarity in Telerehabilitation*. This work explores the theoretical aspects of transdisciplinary research, with a specific focus on its application to telerehabilitation. It highlights the integration of multiple disciplines – ranging from medicine, digital health, and informatics to engineering and the social sciences – which is increasingly necessary to address the complex challenges of delivering effective remote rehabilitation services. The article emphasizes the importance of transcending traditional disciplinary boundaries to foster innovative solutions in telerehabilitation. By examining the collaborative efforts across medicine, technology, and behavioral sciences, the article outlines how these integrations can enhance patient outcomes, improve accessibility, and lead to the development of personalized rehabilitation plans. It also identifies key areas for future research, including advanced technologies, new therapeutic modalities, and the importance of standardization and interoperability in telerehabilitation systems.

This Special Issue also coincides with an important event in the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) – the *4th National Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*, scheduled to take place on September 27-28, 2024, in Kyiv, Ukraine. This Congress, organized by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Shupyk National Healthcare University of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, and the Charitable Foundation Research Innovations In Medicine “Rimon” marks a decade of progress in PM&R during a particularly challenging period for Ukraine. The theme, “Ten Years of Development of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in a Period of Trials for Ukraine: Achievements, Challenges, Prospects,” reflects both the resilience and the advancements made in the field.

This year, for the first time, the Congress will be held with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO). The event will feature plenary sessions, master classes, and workshops focused on multidisciplinary rehabilitation care for those wounded and affected by the ongoing conflict. In addition to these critical discussions, the Congress will also address other areas of rehabilitation medicine, including neurology, traumatology, cardiology, pediatric rehabilitation, sports medicine, and the rehabilitation of Paralympic athletes. The integration of mental health and psychotherapeutic aspects of rehabilitation into these discussions underscores the holistic approach needed in modern rehabilitation practices.

We hope that the collective insights and collaborative efforts of leading rehabilitation specialists, both from Ukraine and abroad, will serve as a catalyst for continued successful reforms in the field of rehabilitation in Ukraine. The Congress is not only an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge but also a chance to experience the largest and most influential event in the field of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (PM&R) in Ukraine for the year 2024. For more information, please visit the official Congress website at <https://rimon.org.ua/rehabilitation270924-ua/>.

In this Special Issue, we also highlight how these developments in PM&R are supported and amplified by advancements in telerehabilitation. The use of hybrid formats and digital tools in rehabilitation programs enables healthcare providers to offer continuous, patient-centered care, regardless of geographic or logistical constraints. As the field of telerehabilitation continues to expand, it is essential to explore its integration into broader healthcare systems, ensuring that patients have access to comprehensive rehabilitation services tailored to their individual needs.

We look forward to your contributions and to the ongoing dialogue that will shape the future of telerehabilitation and PM&R globally.

Sincerely,

Kyrylo S. Malakhov

Invited Guest Editor

Pitt
Open
Library
Publishing

This work is published by Pitt Open Library Publishing and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

