

Insights into publishing with the Lancet journals

Pooja Jha, PhD

Editor-in-Chief, *The Lancet Regional Health - Europe*

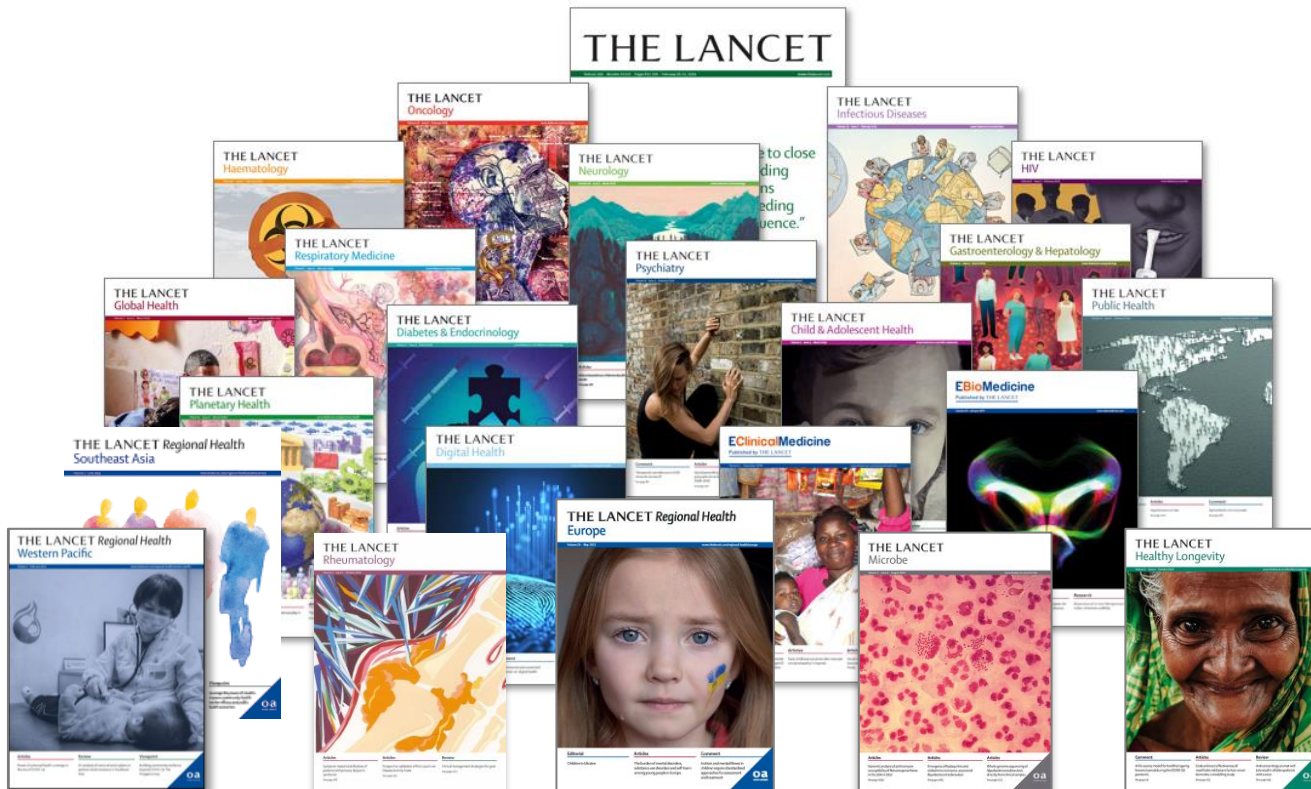
March 6, 2023; University of Bergen

Pooja.jha@lancet.com

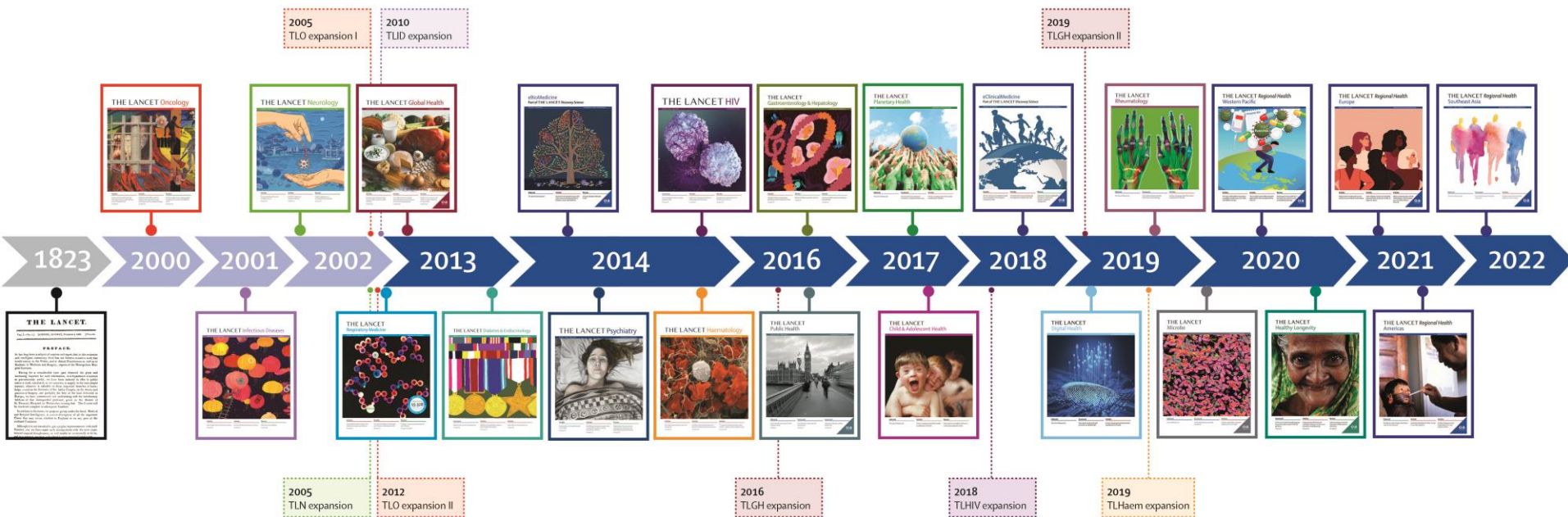


- The Lancet family of journals
- Editorial evaluation at Lancet journals
 - Overview of the editorial process
 - What editors look for
 - Some tips for writing a good paper
- Focus on: *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe*
 - General information
 - Aim, scope, priority areas, current challenges
 - Examples: article types and assessment criteria
 - Special projects: Commissions & Series
- Impact beyond publishing
- Questions and feedback

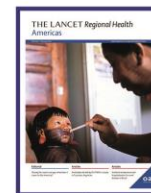
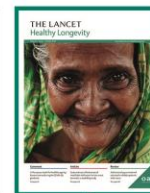
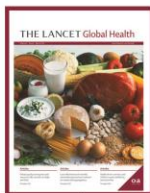
The *Lancet* family of journals today



Evolution of the *Lancet* family



The *Lancet* family – Gold OA journals



1823

2013

2014

2016

2017

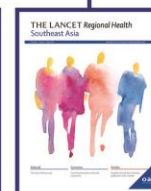
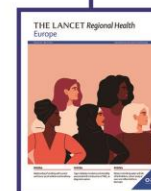
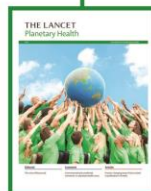
2018

2019

2020

2021

2022





Equity: Every region. Equal access. Better health.



Our regional focus is inspired by the World Health Organization (WHO) groupings

www.thelancet.com/regional-health



A champion for change in the region

- The editorial agenda ensures that the topics we cover can be utilised by national health workforce and systems, and public health policy



World-class editorial support and leadership

- Inhouse editors, based in their respective region
- Editors are committed to engagement with stakeholders on a national and regional level



Unparalleled reach and visibility for regional research

- Gold open access.
- There are no barriers to entry anywhere the content is found.

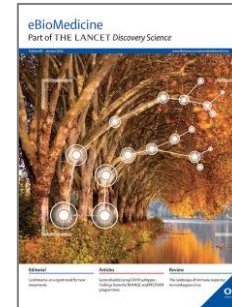
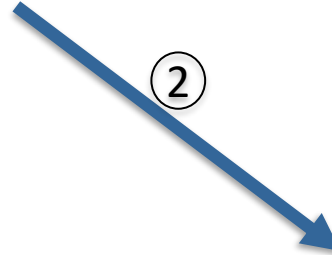


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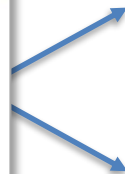
After submission: the journey of your paper



- ① Consideration at another *Lancet* journal
- ② Multiple transfers possible



After submission: the journey of your paper



3

Authors are often given more than one choice of 'destination' journal

Which *Lancet* journal do you select?



Find out more about each of the *Lancet* journals, including scope, guidelines for authors, and submission information.

The Lancet is a world-leading international general medical journal founded in 1823. We invite submissions of any original contribution that advances or illuminates medical science or practice, or that educates the journal's readers.

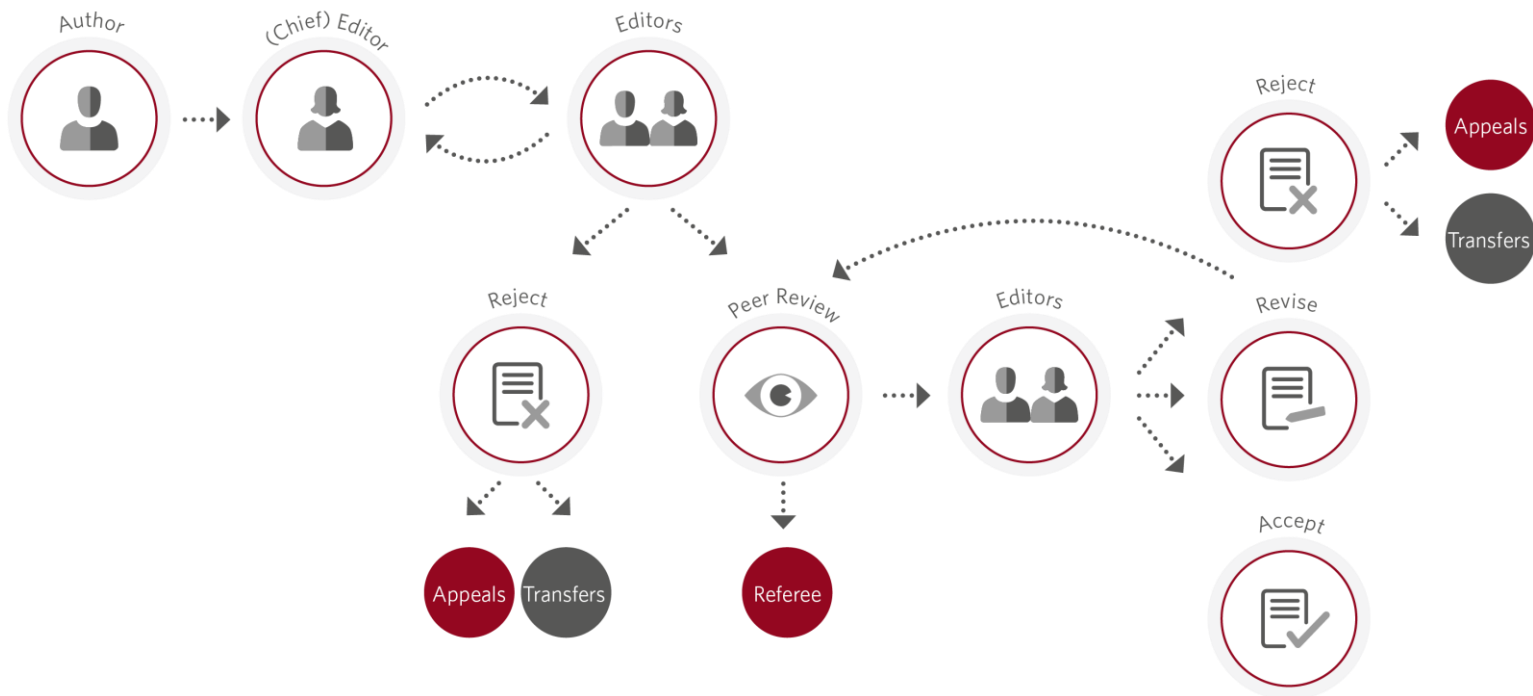
[ABOUT](#)[GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS](#)[SUBMIT](#)

The Lancet Regional Health – Europe is a new open access journal, part of *The Lancet's* global initiative to advocate for health-care quality and access in all regions of the world. The journal fosters the advance of clinical practice and health policy in the European region, with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes. We aspire to increase the quality of regional and national health research.

[ABOUT](#)[GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS](#)[SUBMIT](#)

www.thelancet.com/which-journal

After submission: the journey of your paper



What do high quality journal editors look for (positives)?



We look for **papers that matter to the field**, even if they don't have high citation potential!

Mainly

- **Relevance** to the journal's readership
- **Robust methodology**: sample size, study design, statistics
- Strong **support** for conclusions
- Work that will **inspire** further research
- **Ethical** conducts of research
- RCTs: prospective registration, power calculation, protocol

Other considerations for some types of papers

- Novelty and advancement
- Clinical relevance
- Resource value
- Policy relevance



What do high quality journal editors look for (negatives) ?

Incremental advances – generally less successful

- **Weak** association studies
- Poor question selection/inappropriate patient group or endpoint
- Lack of comparator group
- **Underpowered**—too few participants to be conclusive
- Over-reliance on ad-hoc, **exploratory** analyses
- For predictive or modelling studies, **lack of validation** in an independent cohort
- For trials, lack of protocol, **lack of trial registration**



What makes a great paper ?

Great research!

- How important is the question you are addressing
- Strong evidence
- Noteworthy conclusions

Great research arises prospectively

- Exciting findings usually result from asking a good question
- Thoughtful experimental design, taking into account any need for statistical analysis from the start
- Well chosen, well executed protocols

A compelling story

- Effective, clear writing
- Know your target audience

Golden rule of writing a good paper

The ABC of writing style

a

accurate

b

brief

c

clear

Preparing your manuscript: writing the paper

- Title: non-declamatory, includes study descriptor
- Abstract: Background, Method, Findings, Interpretation
- Keywords
- Sections
 - Introduction: **WHY?**
 - Methods: **HOW?**
 - Results: **WHAT?**
 - Discussion: **SO WHAT?**
- Acknowledgements
- Data sharing statement
- Conflict of interest statement
- Author contribution
- References
- Supplementary data

- Basic structure – all journals
- Some journals might have additional sections

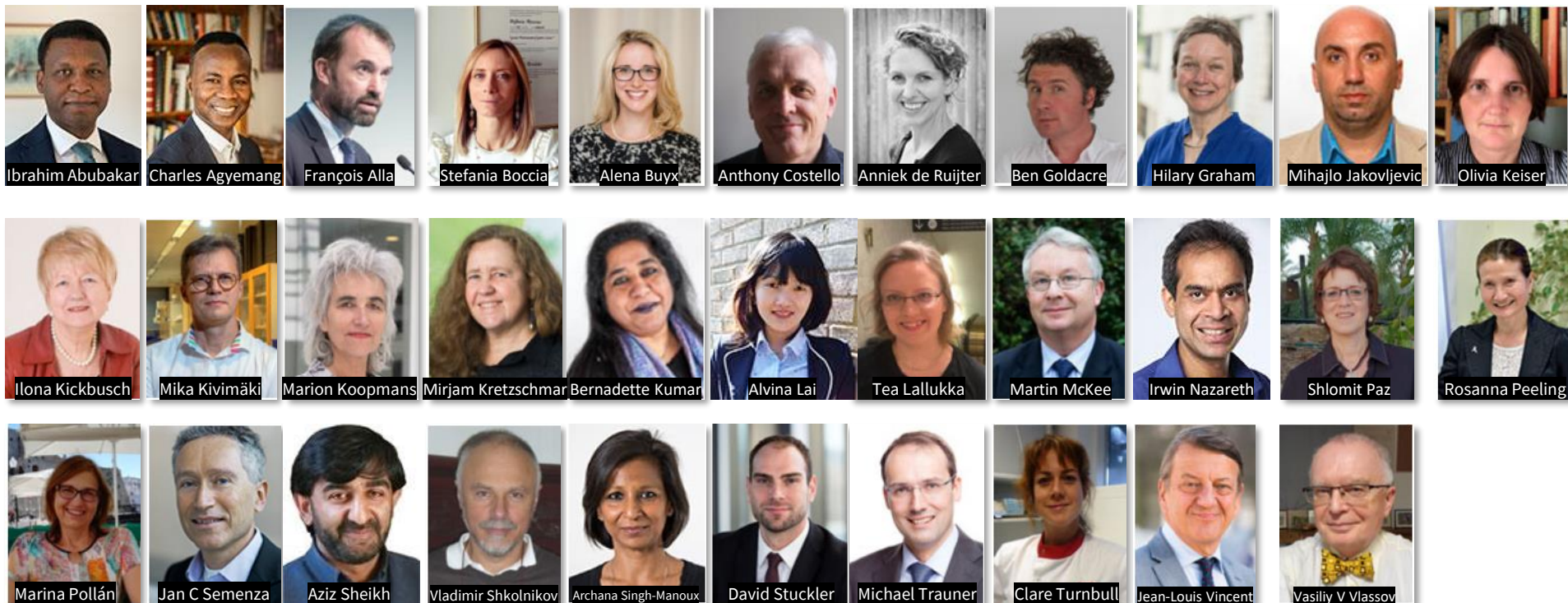


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- Launched in Feb 2021
- 12 online issues per year
- Article types
 - Editorial
 - Research Article
 - Systematic review and meta-analysis
 - Health Policy
 - Review
 - Personal View & Viewpoint
 - Comment (linked, unlinked)
 - Correspondence
- Series
- Commission

The Lancet Regional Health - Europe's International Advisory Board





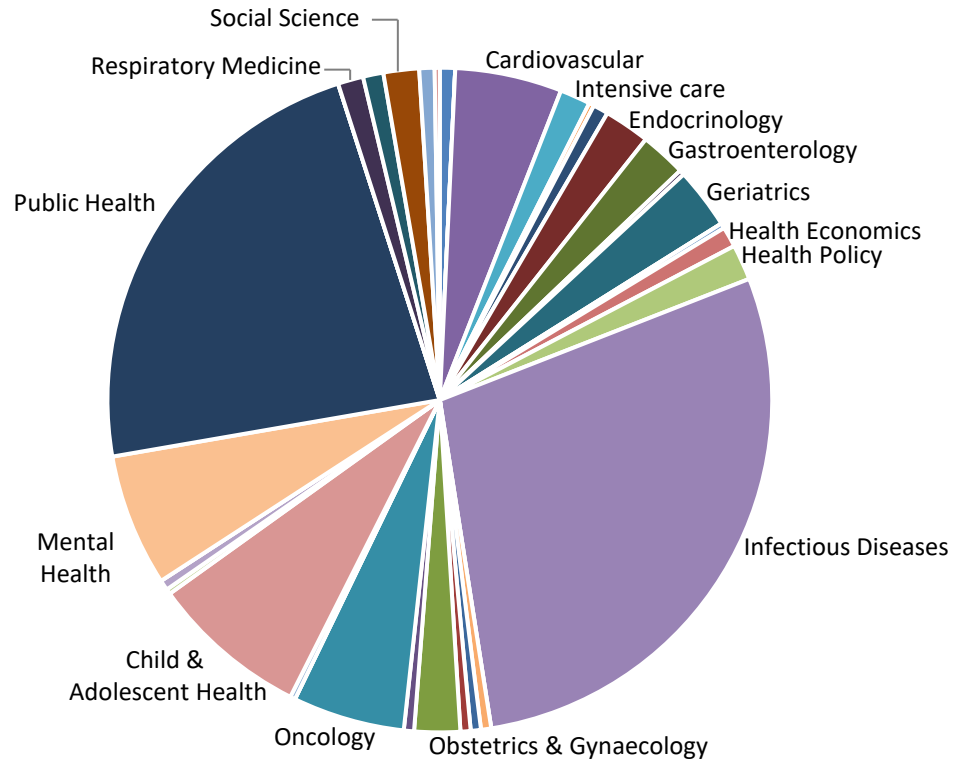
Scope

All areas of **clinical, public & global health** pertaining to the WHO Europe region.

Mission

- Capture the pulse of the region
- Improve health outcomes and narrow **health inequity gaps** in the region
- To raise **awareness** and prompt **public debate** on key health issues of the region







Challenges for health in the WHO Europe region

Major disease burden (NCDs)

- Mental health
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Cancer
- Chronic respiratory diseases

Major public health burden

- Infectious disease outbreaks
- AMR
- Alcohol
- Tobacco use
- Overweight and obesity

Major global health priorities

- Promoting healthy lives and well-being
- Migrant health
- Socio-economic and political determinants of health
- Drug pricing in Europe
- Moving towards UHC
- Protecting against health emergencies



Publications from Nordic countries

- Nordic countries rank among the top 15 countries we've published the max. number of papers from : Sweden (#6) > Denmark (#7) > Norway (#13) > Finland (#15)
- Predominantly on infectious diseases/ COVID-19, public health, epidemiology, mental health
- Most highly cited papers from **Norway** are on **mental health** during COVID-19

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

RESEARCH PAPER | VOLUME 4, 100071, MAY 2021

Prevalence of mental disorders, suicidal ideation and suicides in the general population before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in **Norway**: A population-based repeated cross-sectional analysis

Ann Kristin Skrindo Knudsen  • Kim Stene-Larsen • Kristin Gustavson • Matthew Hotopf • Ronald C. Kessler • Steinar Krokstad • Jens Christoffer Skogen • Simon Øverland • Anne Reneflot • [Show less](#)

[Open Access](#) • Published: February 27, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepi.2021.100071>

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

RESEARCH PAPER | VOLUME 5, 100093, JUNE 2021

Adolescents' symptoms of anxiety and depression before and during the Covid-19 outbreak – A prospective population-based study of teenagers in **Norway**

Gertrud Sofie Hafstad  • Sjur Skjørshammer Sætren • Tore Wentzel-Larsen • Else-Marie Augusti

[Open Access](#) • Published: March 28, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepi.2021.100093>



Selection criteria for Research articles

- Novelty
- Study design: RCT; observational studies > survey based > Qualitative
- Sample size, methodology, statistics
- Robust: multicentre; longitudinal vs. cross-sectional; data should strongly support conclusions

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

RESEARCH PAPER | VOLUME 3, 100014, APRIL 2021

Attack rates amongst household members of outpatients with confirmed COVID-19 in Bergen, Norway: A case-ascertained study

< Kanika Kuweller [#] • Fan Zhou [#] • Bjørn Blomberg • Sarah Larley • Karl Albert Brokstad • Mai Chi Trieu • Amit Bansal • Anders Madsen • Florian Krammer • Kristin GI Mohn • Camilla Tøndel • Dagrunn Waag Linchausen • Rebecca J. Cox [✉] • Nina Langeland [✉] • on behalf of the Bergen COVID-19 research group • Show less • Show footnotes

Open Access • Published: March 31, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanep.2020.100014>

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

ARTICLES | ONLINE FIRST, 100595

Two-year follow-up of patients with post-COVID-19 condition in Sweden: a prospective cohort study

Carl Wahlgren [✉] ^d • Gustaf Forsberg ^d • Anestis Divanoglou • Åse Östholm Balkhed • Katarina Niward • Sören Berg • Richard Levi • Show less • Show footnotes

Open Access • Published: February 23, 2023 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanep.2023.100595>



Criteria

- **Linked Comment** are always commissioned by the editors—is linked to a research article in the Issue
- **Unlinked Comment** often on current affairs; critical concerns in research/clinical practice
- Opiniated
- Suggest action points
- Reviewed on case-by-case basis

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

COMMENT | [VOLUME 24, 100548, JANUARY 01, 2023](#)

Moving beyond gender identity: the need for contextualization in gender-sensitive medical research

[Irene Göttgens](#) • [Sabine Oertelt-Prigione](#)

[Open Access](#) • Published: November 24, 2022 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2022.100548> •



Exchange of letters on any published content in the journal

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

To encourage debate and differing opinions

LETTER | VOLUME 3, 100068, APRIL 01, 2021

Reply to: Integral management of COVID-19 in Madrid: Turning things around during the second wave

M Díaz-Menéndez • E Malmierca

Reply to "Integral management of COVID-19 in Madrid: Turning things around during the second wave"

Mario Fontán-Vela • Pedro Gullón • Javier Padilla-Bernáldez

Open Access • Published: March 12, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanpe.2021.100067>

Reply to “Integral management of COVID-19 in Madrid: Turning things around during the second wave”

María-Victoria Zunzunegui • Fernando J.García López • Miguel Ángel Royo-Bordonada • Isabel Cienfuegos

Open Access • Published: March 15, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanpe.2021.100065>

Reply to: “Integral management of COVID-19 in Madrid: Turning things around during the second wave”

Ángel López-Encuentra, PhD • Pablo Lázaro y de Mercado, PhD • Víctor Abreira, PhD • Sergio García Rull, MD • Francisco Pozo Rodríguez, PhD

Open Access • Published: March 19, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanpe.2021.100069>

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

COMMENTARY | VOLUME 3, 100076, APRIL 01, 2021

Integral management of COVID-19 in Madrid: Turning things around during the second wave—Authors' reply

Francisco Javier Candel • Jesús San-Román • Pablo Barreiro • Jesús Canora • Antonio Zapatero • Mar Carretero • et al. [Show all authors](#)

Open Access • Published: March 19, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanpe.2021.100076>

Criteria Comment

- Short pieces, 500 words, Succint, topical
- Either linked to articles published in the journal or standalone piece.

THE LANCET *Regional Health Europe*

CORRESPONDENCE | VOLUME 24, 100564, JANUARY 01, 2023

Rapid emergence of omicron sublineages expressing spike protein R346T

Ramona Groenheit • Ilias Galanis • Klara Sondén • Maïke Sperk • Elin Moverit • Philip Bacchus • Tatiana Efimova • Lina Petersson • Marie Rapp • Viktoria Sahlén • Sandra Söderholm • Karin Valentin Asin • Sarah Zanetti • Maria Lind Karlberg • Andreas Bråve • Jonas Klingström   • Kim Blom • Show less

Open Access • Published: December 09, 2022 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2022.100564> • 

THE LANCET *Regional Health Europe*

CORRESPONDENCE | VOLUME 25, 100572, FEBRUARY 01, 2023

The Afghan population needs a national health system to survive and continued support from international donors

Karl Blanchet   • Fouzia Shafique

Open Access • Published: December 24, 2022 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2022.100572> • 



- Narrative reviews on topics relevant to policy makers (public health or clinical discipline)
- Should cover developments related to policy, health systems, or economics

HEALTH POLICY | [ONLINE FIRST, 100576](#)

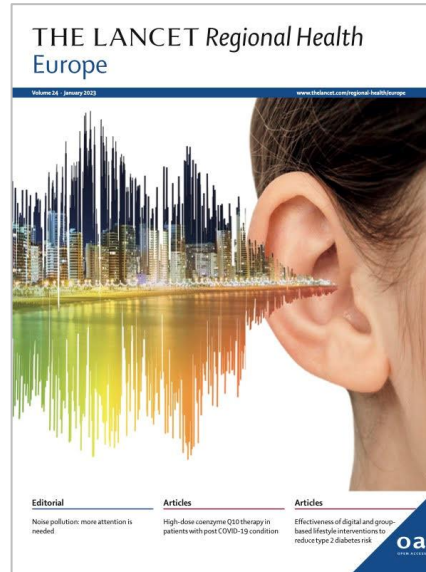
Dementia prevention in memory clinics: recommendations from the European task force for brain health services

[Giovanni B. Frisoni](#)   • [Daniele Altomare](#) • [Federica Ribaldi](#) • [Nicolas Villain](#) • [Carol Brayne](#) • [Naaheed Mukadam](#) • [Marc Abramowicz](#) • [Frederik Barkhof](#) • [Marcelo Berthier](#) • [Melanie Bieler-Aeschlimann](#) • [Kaj Blennow](#) • [Andrea Brioschi Guevara](#) • [Emmanuel Carrera](#) • [Gaël Chételat](#) • [Chantal Csajka](#) • [Jean-François Demonet](#) • [Alessandra Dodich](#) • [Valentina Garibotto](#) • [Jean Georges](#) • [Samia Hurst](#) • [Frank Jessen](#) • [Miia Kivipelto](#) • [David J. Llewellyn](#) • [Laura McWhirter](#) • [Richard Milne](#) • [Carolina Minguillón](#) • [Carlo Miniussi](#) • [José Luis Molinuevo](#) • [Peter M. Nilsson](#) • [Alastair Noyce](#) • [Janice M. Ranson](#) • [Oriol Grau-Rivera](#) • [Jonathan M. Schott](#) • [Alina Solomon](#) • [Ruth Stephen](#) • [Wiesje van der Flier](#) • [Cornelia van Duijn](#) • [Bruno Vellas](#) • [Leonie N.C. Visser](#) • [Jeffrey L. Cummings](#) • [Philip Scheltens](#) • [Craig Ritchie](#) • [Bruno Dubois](#) • [Show less](#)

[Open Access](#) • Published: January 30, 2023 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2022.100576>

- 43 authors, 28 institutions
- 10 countries
- Alzheimer Europe (41 national Alzheimer's associations from 37 European countries)
- Four pillars identified for the deployment of Brain Health Services

- Conveys thought leadership & voice of the journal
- Always written by in-house editors, external experts are often consulted
- On current affairs, World health days, Important papers in the Issue



- ✓ **Sweden's** economic inequality gap is widening and worrying
- ✓ **Noise pollution:** more attention is needed



A focused Commission or Series

Commission: work with academic partners to identify the most pressing issues in science, medicine, and global health, with the aim of **producing recommendations to change public policy or improve practice**.

Eg: Lancet Commission on Migration and Health (2018)

Series: Commissioned by editors. Includes 2-5 review type articles that take an in-depth look into emerging trends and new discoveries on a topic to **explore new thinking and advance a particular field**.

Eg: Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe



Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe

- Published in Oct 2021; 11 Papers
- Multi-layered approach to lay out macro level fundamental pillars around which health systems in Europe are formed, to address
 - Lessons learned
 - Changes adopted
 - Transformations needed

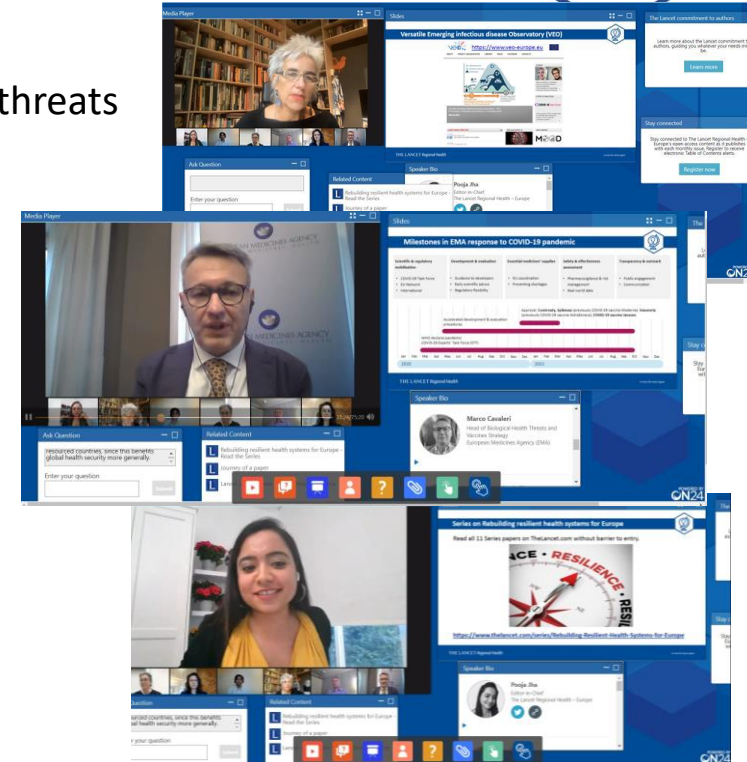
<https://www.thelancet.com/series/Rebuilding-Resilient-Health-Systems-for-Europe>

Series : Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe



Topics covered in the Series

- **Economics:** Multilateralism in responding to infectious disease threats
- **Early surveillance:** One Health preparedness.
- **Data:** Sharing, synthesis & sustainability.
- **EMA:** EU medicines regulation in the post COVID-19 era
- **HERA:** Its regional and global role
- **Law:** Impact of the EU on access to medicines in LMICs
- **Ethics:** 4 key concerns taking Germany as an example
- **Climate change:** infectious diseases; Lateral public health
- **Key examples:** EU (Croatia) & non-EU perspective (BH); Ireland



Webinar for global launch of the Series

Series : Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe



Dedicated Series home page

<https://www.thelancet.com/series/Rebuilding-Resilient-Health-Systems-for-Europe>

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

Submit Article

Series from the Lancet journals

View all Series

Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe

Published: October 7, 2021

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has put global public health and innovation on centre stage and revealed their indispensable role as gatekeepers of a healthy society. The health systems of all countries are strained by the pandemic, and a significant overhaul is required for most health systems to adapt and innovate under the pressures of the pandemic, and in light of the overarching climate change threat to health security.

Against this backdrop, *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe* has published a Series of eleven papers by experts from different areas of public health, global health, ethics, economic policies, laws, and regulatory bodies. The Series takes a multi-layered approach to lay out the fundamental pillars around which health systems in Europe are formed, changes that were made during the pandemic, and the new foundations that must be built in order to make European health systems more resilient.

Editorial

Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe

The Lancet *Regional Health* – Europe

The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, Vol. 9

Full-Text HTML | PDF



Webinar

THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

Series on Rebuilding resilient health systems for Europe

Edited by
Agnès HERNÁNDEZ-CRUZ
The Lancet Regional Health – Europe Editorial

Hosted by
Walter Hill, Professor of Health Economics, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
Martin Wittert, Professor, Department of Economics, University Medical Center, The Netherlands
Helen Godwin, Senior Principal Health Trade and Business Strategy, European Medicines Agency, The Netherlands
Natalie Fordham, Series Editor, Research Department of Health Care Policy and Law, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Ana HERNÁNDEZ, Professor of Health and Care, JHU Department of Research in Biotechnology and Health, University of California at Berkeley, USA
Jan Henkens, Research Associate, Hücklerberg Institute of Global Health, University of Wuppertal, Germany

THE LANCET ReportWatch

Watch the global launch of *the Lancet Regional Health – Europe* Series on Rebuilding Resilient Health Systems for Europe On-Demand



Global Health Series:

1. Establishing migration an independent determinant of health inequalities

Clinical Series:

2. European variations in cardiovascular disease and outcomes
3. Atrial Fibrillation
4. New therapies & advances for early-stage and advance-stage NSCLC
5. Multiple Sclerosis
6. Sexually transmitted Infections



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Why scientific publishing is important

- Scientific **responsibility**
- It's like a stamp/certificate of **quality, validation, trustworthiness and reliability** of your product (research work)
- To **disseminate** and **share** the results of research in the scientific community
- **Recognition** mechanism for researchers and institutions
- Important for **evidence-based change/improvement/advance** in clinical, public, global health
- RCTs for drugs/vaccines have have direct impact on improving and **changing practice of medicine**



THE LANCET

ARTICLES | VOLUME 395, ISSUE 10223, P497-506, FEBRUARY 15, 2020

Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China

Prof Chaolin Huang, MD * • Yeming Wang, MD * • Prof Xingwang Li, MD * • Prof Lili Ren, PhD * • Prof Jianping Zhao, MD * • Yi Hu, MD * • Prof Li Zhang, MD • Guohui Fan, MS • Jiuyang Xu, MDc • Xiaoying Gu, PhD • Prof Zhenshun Cheng, MD • Ting Yu, MD • Jiaan Xia, MD • Yuan Wei, MD • Prof Wenjuan Wu, MD • Prof Xuelei Xie, MD • Wen Yin, MD • Hui Li, MD • Min Liu, MD • Yan Xiao, MS • Prof Hong Gao, PhD • Prof Li Guo, PhD • Prof Jungang Xie, MD • Prof Guangfa Wang, MD • Prof Rongmeng Jiang, MD • Prof Zhancheng Gao, MD • Qi Jin, PhD • Prof Jianwei Wang, PhD   • Prof Bin Cao, MD   • Show less • Show footnotes

Published: January 24, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30183-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30183-5) •  Check for updates

- **1st report of SARS-CoV-2**
- Was an **evidence-based scientific alert** to the world to take the spread of ‘cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan’ seriously.
- Subsequent **lockdowns** followed to curb the infection.
- Ugur Sahin (Co-Founder and CEO of BioNTech) after being alerted of the impending pandemic by this *Lancet* article, partnered with Pfizer **to produce the BioNTech-Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.**



THE LANCET

ARTICLES | VOLUME 397, ISSUE 10269, P99-111, JANUARY 09, 2021

Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK

Merryn Voysey, DPhil * • Sue Ann Costa Clemens, PhD * • Shabir A Madhi, PhD * • Lily Y Weckx, PhD * • Pedro M Folegatti, MD * • Parvinder K Aley, PhD • et al. [Show all authors](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

[Open Access](#) • Published: December 08, 2020 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32661-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32661-1)






- 1st report of the **efficacy** of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine
- Led to the immediate roll-out of AstraZeneca **vaccine in elderly** in UK, followed by other countries
- Averted many deaths during the peak of the pandemic
- **Caution:** Press-releases about drugs/vaccines from pharma companies are always before the papers are published/ submitted/ peer-reviewed



RESEARCH PAPER | VOLUME 2, 100019, MARCH 2021

The role of organizational characteristics on the outcome of COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU in Belgium

Fabio Silvio Taccone   • Nina Van Goethem  ¹ • Robby De Pauw • Xavier Wittebole • Koen Blot • Herman Van Oyen • Tinne Lernout • Marion Montourcy • Geert Meyfroidt [#] • Dominique Van Beckhoven [#] • on behalf of the Belgian Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the Belgian Collaborative Group on COVID-19 Hospital Surveillance •

[Show less](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

[Open Access](#) • Published: January 13, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanep.2020.100019>





- 1st data on impact of ICU capacity on patients outcomes in **Belgium**
- Data used by the government to inform changes needed to expand ICU capacity



THE LANCET *Regional Health*
Europe

RESEARCH PAPER | VOLUME 5, 100092, JUNE 2021

A cross-sectional and prospective cohort study of the role of schools in the SARS-CoV-2 second wave in Italy

Sara Gandini   • Maurizio Rainisio • Maria Luisa Iannuzzo • Federica Bellerba • Francesco Cecconi • Luca Scorrano  

Open Access • Published: March 26, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2021.100092>

- Somewhat controversial paper that had a policy impact on keeping the schools open during early 2021 in Italy
- Data from 2nd wave (from September 30, 2020 until at least February 28, 2021)
- Data and analysis **did not support** a role for school opening as a driver of the second COVID-19 wave in Italy



- Long COVID
 - Understanding heterogeneity of symptoms & mechanism
 - Epidemiology, duration
 - Long COVID in children
- SARS-CoV-2 new variants and their epidemiology
 - SARS-CoV-2 variant-related abnormalities
- Novel vaccinations
 - Single booster against multiple emerging variants
 - Dual vaccinations (eg, Influenza and SARS-Co-V-2)



- Manuscript transfer system gives you **options** to publish your paper within The Lancet family: increases your **chances of publishing success**
- We look for **papers that matter to the field**
- Studies **unlikely to make it** at Lancet journals: weak association studies, underpowered , exploratory, lack of validation, lack of trial registration
- Editors, not referees, take the **ultimate responsibility** for decisions
- The goal of peer review is to **improve papers**, make the **most of your opportunity** to revise
- We consider appeals in cases where the **concerns can be resolved**



Questions and feedback

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