Enduring this unexpected time through mutual support and understanding

Jun-Beom Park *, Associate Editor, Journal of Periodontal and Implant Science

Department of Periodontics, College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea

Both we—as members of the biomedical research community—and people throughout the world are suffering greatly from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Over 1,000,000 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in more than 200 countries, and the number of deaths is increasing worldwide. I am currently spending a year as a visiting researcher. I safely arrived in the country that I am visiting, but the situation is becoming more severe day by day. Fear and anxiety are coming closer, growing, and sometimes even overwhelming us. In this period, less time and leeway are available because so many things must be taken care of. Moreover, more time and energy/effort are needed to finish each task.

Many meetings and conferences are being canceled or postponed at the moment. The Korean Academy of Periodontology is very closely monitoring the current situation of COVID-19 with regard to upcoming meetings. Nonetheless, the Journal of Periodontal and Implant Science (JPIS) is moving forward under these circumstances without interruption. More than 100 papers have been submitted so far in 2020. All manuscripts are being reviewed by editorial board members and reviewers, who are experts in the corresponding fields. All editorial members of JPIS, including myself, are trying to do our best to meet the production schedule of the journal. However, if researchers have specific needs due to this ongoing crisis, we are open to working with them to accommodate those needs.

It is not easy to continue ongoing research at this time. I am trying to be prepared for the unexpected future, and to engage with every practice in my daily life to the best of my ability. I want to encourage you—and I am no exception to this myself—to keep conducting research steadily, irrespective of the pace. I am trying and would like to recommend for you to remain connected with family and colleagues through social networking services, telephones, and so on.

Look around. Everyday people around you may need help and encouragement. It is through mutual support and understanding that we will endure this unexpected time.