

An Unforeseen Interlude: One Year of the Pandemic

The past year one virus has simultaneously plagued all corners of the world. Here at Cerrahpaşa, we have seen the toll of the coronavirus first hand. All healthcare workers labored day and night, our operating rooms were converted to ICUs, we lived through lockdowns and public anxiety about this unfamiliar threat. This past year has been, and continues to be difficult for everyone, and most of all those who have lost their loved ones, including many of our own coworkers.

No such event has happened since the pandemic of 1918. The difference in 2020 was the medical and scientific confidence our 21st century expertise had given us, an undeniable feeling of invincibility. After all of humanity's advanced in the last 100 years, how and why would a virus cause a catastrophe again? The answer lies in what it means to be human. We are a species that constantly strives for the better, to improve upon the past for a better and more equitable future - yet our environment changes with us. The past year has proven that no matter how much we feel like we've solved everything, there will be new challenges that we must tackle.

This view of humanity and our relation to the world may sound bleak at first, however let us recognize that we do not always start from ground zero. Our past discoveries have eased our fight against the coronavirus. Technological advances, and mainly the advent of the worldwide web, has allowed us to endure isolation and continue a semblance of normal connection with our loved ones and institutions through virtual means. The worldwide organizations have provided much-needed information and guidance for countries, which wouldn't have been possible in a less interconnected globe. Perhaps most importantly, scientists have developed effective vaccines in less than a year since the pandemic started, a milestone previously unimaginable. All of this is to show that despite the real danger brought upon by the pandemic we were able to face it, live through it, and now it seems we will be able to overcome it. As the second spring of the pandemic rolls around, we can feel the breeze of better days. It will be a long, hard road to administer vaccines rapidly and to ease the public burnout from social distancing and isolation.

This is a delicate kind of hope, one that needs great care and diligence, we must restart human society carefully as spring restarts the earth, *'changing everything carefully ... without breaking anything'* (E.E. Cummings - *Spring is like a perhaps hand*).

As we celebrate the start of a new season, the Editorial Board of Cerrahpaşa Medical Journal (CMJ) would like to note our inclusion in TR-Index (ULAKBIM) after reviving the journal in 2019. We would like to thank you to everyone who has supported us, including our skilled contributors, our distinguished reviewers, our dedicated publishers, and all of our readership.

With our most sincere regards,

In the name of CMJ Editorial Board,
Ali Metin Kafadar

Spring is like a perhaps hand

E. E. Cummings - 1894-1962

III

Spring is like a perhaps hand
(which comes carefully
out of Nowhere) arranging
a window, into which people look (while
people stare
arranging and changing placing
carefully there a strange
thing and a known thing here) and

changing everything carefully

spring is like a perhaps
Hand in a window
(carefully to
and fro moving New and
Old things, while
people stare carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower here placing
an inch of air there) and

without breaking anything.