



Letter from the Editors

Dear IJFAE readers,

Halfway through 2022 and the worldwide challenges to health and safety are extreme and disturbing. War, earthquakes, famine, drought, flooding, wildfires, and severe economic stress can cause immense suffering for individuals and stretch public services to breaking point in our most vulnerable communities. While first aid education might feel far removed from these fast- and slow-moving catastrophes, it plays a vital role around the globe, in every community as part of the resilience fabric, saving lives, reducing suffering, and supplementing healthcare systems.

Reflecting on the increased role of first aid education and the first four volumes of the IJFAE, the [Chain of Survival Behaviors](#) continues to represent the foundation of our vision. Each link represents a domain that when joined provides learners the entire spectrum from which first aid is most successful. Our ambition and scope for first aid education continues to be one in which every learner can take what they need and be supported in learning more about first aid to be prepared and willing to act. Over the first four volumes, you've mostly seen submissions which focus on first aid skill acquisition and knowledge. Less common are papers which tackle the other four domains that make up the Chain:

- Prevent and prepare
- Recognize
- Access help
- Support recovery

Pedagogy within each domain is unique in content and context, based on the knowledge, skills, and behaviors in each. For example, recognizing an emergency is not just about signs and symptoms, but also the psychology of being in a group and managing social expectations. We want to learn more from the field and see which strategies work compared to others and for which audiences. Equally important for the development of first aid education is how learners transition between each domain, which we are also keen to learn more about. This will continue some of the work being done around the willingness and intentions to

help in an emergency. Helping learners to have confidence in their ability to prepare themselves for and recover from accidents, emergencies, extreme weather events, acts of violence, and unexpected reduced access to healthcare will build their resilience and ability to cope in such adverse circumstances.

We are delighted to open this issue with articles from dedicated first aiders across the world considering new ways of teaching and reaching people with online and video learning; and adaptations to lower resource settings. We encourage those readers looking for new research angles, or with students deliberating their next study, to consider research questions such as these:

- How does a learner identify an emergency in order to activate help? Does it vary for different types of injury or illness? Review of first aid activation approaches in different countries
- Ecologically, what obstacles are there to access first aid – is help really available everywhere?
- What role does the fear of legal consequences play in preventing marginalized groups in accessing help/ first aid?
- What is the role of family and community in supporting recovery and how does this vary in different cultures and contexts?

Please continue to spread the word about our journal. Remember it is free to publish with us and free to read. We look forward to receiving your submissions and learning more from you about the incredible role that first aid education continues to play in all our lives. Continuing to develop the next generation of first aid scholars, the Editorial Board has grown to welcome Dr. Amita Sudhir of the University of Virginia as the Senior Editor for Student Authors. In this role, she will work to recruit and support student authors internationally to have successful submissions. The Editorial Board welcomes two other new members: Dr. Nathan Charlton, also from the University of Virginia and noted expert in developing evidence-based guidelines in first aid to be on the board; and Maya Mahmoud, Field Training Officer in Emergency Medical Services for the Lebanese Red Cross and international Trainer of Trainers.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to our wonderful volunteer Senior Editor for Communications, Christine Boase, who is leaving us after four years of tremendous, loyal service to the journal. Chris has helped us in numerous ways: improving how we reach out to new contributors; leading our communications working group, and most recently, helping us to recruit three fantastic interns from Libya, New Zealand, and the US. We are hugely grateful for her dedication and hard work and will miss her enormously. We wish her all the very best.

Emily Oliver & Jeffrey Pellegrino