

Dear readers,

Please find first issue of 23rd volume of the Journal that presents interesting original research studies, challenging case report and practice guidelines.

Mikone with colleagues evaluated prevalence and risk factors of mental health stigmatization among physicians, and found that stigmatization of mental disorders is common among healthcare professionals in major academic centers in Lithuania. These findings underscore urgent need for targeted educational interventions in order to improve knowledge of physicians about people with mental disorders.

A study by Dubininkiene and Cerkauskas confirmed that smoking is a common behavioral addiction in patients with depressive disorders treated in psychiatry unit, and is associated with more frequent hospitalizations for depressive disorder and health-related quality of life. These data suggest the importance of adequate therapies of co-morbid addictions in patients with mental disorders.

Milasauskiene and Steibliene present a challenging case of schizophrenia-like psychotic symptoms in a patient with Lyme neuroborreliosis. Antibacterial and antipsychotic treatment resulted in only minor improvement in neuropsychiatric symptoms.

Readers will also find a detailed review with practical recommendations of esketamine nasal spray therapy for the management of treatment-resistant depression that were developed by Kasper and colleagues who are European experts in major depressive disorder and treatment resistant depression.

We also congratulate Saulius Taroza MD, PhD for successfully defending PhD degree focused on thyroid axis functioning in patients with ischemic stroke! We wish best of luck in academic career.

I would like to thank authors for their valuable and exciting contributions and editorial board members for their important work to make this issue possible during turbulent times of global pandemic.

Keep safe and vaccinated,

Sincerely,

Adomas Bunevicius MD, PhD