



Covid-19: Fighting the pandemic with global forces

More than 4,400 participants in video expert conference worldwide

Konstanz, April 14th, 2020.

Covid-19 keeps the world in suspense. As different as the degree of development in different countries is - many medical professionals face similar challenges and have many questions. This is why, following the first successful conference for German doctors, the doctors' network coliquio has now realised another edition with international participation on 11 April, together with its partners docplexus (India) and doc red (Colombia).

More than 4,400 doctors from 66 countries informed themselves live about the latest findings on Covid-19. international experts (virologists, pneumologists, cardiologists) from China, South Korea, India, Italy, the USA and Germany provided insights into the situation on the ground and local experiences in dealing with the pandemic.



China and India: Radical containment measures bring short-term success

Prof. Dr. med. Fengming Luo, Deputy Director of the Department of Respiratory and Intensive Care Medicine at the West China Hospital of Sichuan University, emphasized the rigid measures of the sealing off of Hubei Province with the megacity of Wuhan. This, combined with the immediate dispatch of numerous doctors and nurses and a large quantity of protective clothing to the crisis region, led to a sharp drop in infection and death rates.

Shortly after the first suspected cases of infection occurred, India also took nationwide, rigid measures to isolate infected persons and imposed a strict curfew. Dr. D. J. Christopher, pulmonary physician, professor of pulmonary medicine and deputy director at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, and Dr. Om Shrivastav, infectiologist in Mumbai, consider the current studies, which are being carried out, for example, with the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to support the healing process and with plasma from convalescents for immunization, to be good first steps.



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South Korea: Best prepared with a combined strategy

The experience with the MERS virus in 2015 led to a fundamental restructuring of the healthcare system in South Korea. This has created conditions that now lead to an unusually low number of cases compared to other countries. Dr. Marc P. Windisch, Head of the Laboratory for Applied Molecular Virology at the Institut Pasteur Korea, emphasized that only a combination of several measures has achieved this far-reaching effect - from the widespread provision of free tests and inexpensive protective masks, the education of the population and the use of Big Data to monitor infected persons and provide early information via smartphone to those who have had contact with them. The Pasteur Korea Institute has been conducting research on "drug repositioning" since February with the aim of finding drugs that can be used immediately for the treatment of COVID-19. For example, a clinical study to confirm the clinical efficacy of a drug for asthma in mild COVID-19 patients is expected to deliver results in early May.

USA: Telemedicine has become an integral part of treatment

According to Dr. med. Nicholas T. Skipitaris, Director of the Department of Cardiac Electrophysiology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, the dramatic situation in New York will shift further south in the coming weeks, until then it will be necessary, in particular, to increase capacities in the clinics for infected persons. Telemedicine in particular is making a valuable contribution in this respect: heart patients are monitored at home via video conference or tracking devices, thus avoiding risky contact points. And in clinics themselves, remote monitoring options for heart patients are also used to reduce the number of exchanges within the building and to provide intensive medical care for more Covid-19 patients.

Global efforts needed to combat the pandemic

According to Dr. med. Christoph Spinner, infectiologist and senior physician at the Klinikum rechts der Isar (TU Munich) and private lecturer, the situation in German clinics is considered to be stable, as capacities were increased at an early stage. However, a large number of studies are still needed to cope with the pandemic in the long term, he says, and global findings must be brought together and researched as quickly as possible. Prof. Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat Alexander S. Kekulé, Director of the Institute for Medical Microbiology at the University Hospital of the Martin Luther University Halle (Saale), expects a diverse package of methods and therapies that will be successively used in the fight against Covid-19. He concluded the global expert conference with an appeal: "You have to connect your knowledge, you have to connect your experience and my feeling is that when it comes to treatment, many things are reinvented in many parts of the world again, and I would wish for more cohesive action here. This conference is a part of it." CovidCon Global has made a contribution to this – and over 95% of the participants would like to see a continuation.



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About coliquio

On coliquio, too, we notice that the need for information and exchange among doctors is currently particularly high. This is why our medical editorial team currently provides doctors with the latest information on Covid-19 around the clock and answers all their questions via our corona hotline. coliquio is the largest community of doctors in the German-speaking world with over 190,000 doctors from all disciplines. Since its foundation in 2007, the start-up company has developed into a hidden champion - today more than one in two German doctors use coliquio. coliquio sees itself as a personal information assistant for doctors: they should know everything they need to provide optimal treatment for their patients. Since 2018, coliquio has also been offering medflex (www.medflex.de) for simple and data secure digital communication between doctor and patient. www.coliquio.de