



## Do or Die, Ask Not Why! – COVID-19

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### Editorial

“Do or die, ask not why” - that is exactly what the healthcare workers the world over have done for the last 4 months. From doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, paramedics, cleaners, and porters to the ambulance drivers each one of them along with other key workers have gone on and done what was expected of them with or without the recommended Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). While the World Health Organization (WHO), national regulatory bodies and politicians have been trying to formulate PPE guidelines consistent with available evidence or more often with available supplies, these people have soldiered on in the killing fields of the modern world [1-3]. As wave after wave of COVID-19 patients were brought in to the Emergency Department (ED), they looked after each one of them as humanely as possible in spite of great risk to themselves and their loved ones. They did not refuse if they did not have the appropriate gown, the correct mask but made do with what they had.

Every day was not just a matter of life and death for their patients but also for themselves. National official estimates do not reveal the grim tally of the number of deaths among this group of workers. The wonderful obituaries and eulogies in the social or print media are little solace to the grieving families. These incredible human beings gave the supreme sacrifice fighting the havoc unleashed by a single stranded virus made worse by the unwillingness of respective governments to collaborate and collectively learn from what was happening in other countries who were ahead of them in the infection curve. They died doing the job they loved, with little shielding them from this invisible but lethal enemy. Every death has its story of bravery, of fear, of anguish and leaves behind broken families.

This has been a war unlike any other where the hospitals and care homes have become the killing fields. There will be no ceasefire, no victory parade in the end just a wait for another peak and another round of deaths. Hopefully we will be better protected next time around. But for now, when these key workers leave their house for their shifts, the only prayer on their loved one's lips is 'Please don't die'.

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