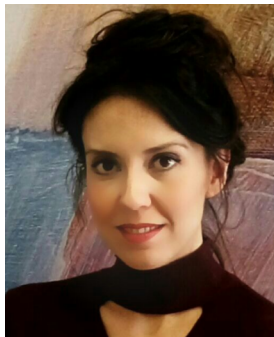


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## Title: How Aware are we of the Potential Butterfly Effect for Intellectual Disabilities? Oral Health, General Health and Life Quality

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### **Proposal**

The oral health is an integral part of general health and quality of life. Changing oral health status is a considerable risk factor to various chronic diseases and health conditions by causing suffering, pain, loss of function that limit biting, chewing, eating altered dietary intake, metabolic process and quality of life.

Individuals with intellectual disability have higher risk factors for oral diseases throughout their lifetime when compared to the general population. Poor oral hygiene, unhealthy diet, social and material determinants, limited availability and inaccessibility to oral health services, insufficient awareness level of daily oral care and regular dental visits among family members or caregivers are potential risk factors for oral diseases in individuals with intellectual disability. Severe chronic disease or conditions associated with physical impairments may accompany intellectual disabilities as a significant challenge for treatment of oral disease. The multiple dental problems and tooth loss early in life, as an initial condition of the butterfly effect, increases risk of growth and developmental delay and chronic diseases or health conditions such as immune deficiency, obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders often leading a pervasive dependence on other people in a later state.

It is not possible to consider the individuals with intellectual disability as a homogeneous group, due to altering physical and behavioral limitations, medications, health status, social support needs, accessibility to health organizations, and the cooperation level during dental visits or health check that make those unique and as well as their care needs. Integrated oral health of general health promotions and effective public health concepts provide a major benefit for improving health conditions for this unique people.

We invite authors to publish papers in a special issue on links between oral health, general health and life quality. Potential topics include, but are not limited to

- I- Oral health care needs of intellectually disabled people in every stage of the life
  - II- Contemporary concepts of multidisciplinary approach to oral health, general health and life quality
  - III- Develop awareness of family members or caregivers on oral health status of people with intellectual disability
  - IV- Professional education and training and continuous professional development of dental care personnel for intellectually disabled people.
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