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The scientific literature on Coronaviruses, COVID-19 and its associated safety-related research dimensions: A scientometric analysis and scoping review



Milad Haghani^{a,*}, Michiel C.J. Bliemer^a, Floris Goerlandt^b, Jie Li^c

^a Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies, The University of Sydney Business School, The University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

^b Dalhousie University, Department of Industrial Engineering, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4R2, Canada

^c Department of Safety Science and Engineering, School of Ocean Science and Engineering, Shanghai Maritime University, China

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 global pandemic has generated an abundance of research quickly following the outbreak. Within only a few months, more than a thousand studies on this topic have already appeared in the scientific literature. In this short review, we analyse the bibliometric aspects of these studies on a macro level, as well as those addressing Coronaviruses in general. Furthermore, through a scoping analysis of the literature on COVID-19, we identify the main safety-related dimensions that these studies have thus far addressed. Our findings show that across various research domains, and apart from the medical and clinical aspects such as the safety of vaccines and treatments, issues related to patient transport safety, occupational safety of healthcare professionals, bio-safety of laboratories and facilities, social safety, food safety, and particularly mental/psychological health and domestic safety have thus far attracted most attention of the scientific community in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our analysis also uncovers various potentially significant safety problems caused by this global health emergency which currently have attracted only limited scientific focus but may warrant more attention. These include matters such as cyber safety, economic safety, and supply-chain safety. These findings highlight why, from an academic research perspective, a holistic interdisciplinary approach and a collective scientific effort is required to help understand and mitigate the various safety impacts of this crisis whose implications reach far beyond the bio-medical risks. Such holistic safety-scientific understanding of the COVID-19 crisis can furthermore be instrumental to be better prepared for a future pandemic.

1. Introduction

The challenges of combating the novel Coronavirus pandemic have put a halt to many economic and socio-cultural activities in many societies across the globe. On the other hand, it has triggered an avalanche of scientific research, both within and outside the medical domain, in order to help communities overcome this challenge by minimising its adverse impacts. The enormity of these scientific efforts and the speed at which the knowledge on this topic has been generated pose significant difficulties for everyone to stay abreast of these developments. In an effort to address this challenge and to help better organise these emerging and rapidly developing scientific outcomes, in this short review, we conduct a macro-scale analysis of the scientific literature on Coronaviruses in general, as well as the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in particular. We also more closely examine the literature published on COVID-19 with safety components to identify the

dimensions of research that have so far been addressed by the scientific community with respect to safety. Apart from the significance this may have to curb the impacts of the current crisis, a holistic view on what safety dimensions are relatively well covered scientifically and which have so far attracted less academic focus, can be instrumental to direct future research efforts. Scientifically analysing and understanding the various safety implications of the COVID-19 pandemic as widely as possible can furthermore help societies to be better prepared for future pandemic outbreaks, and ultimately support informed decision-making in light of societal values.

Research on Coronaviruses in general dates back to 1960s and the literature on this topic is quite well established. The sub-domain of this academic field of research focusing on COVID-19, however, is understandably just an emerging and fast developing field. In Section 2, we discuss the method by which the bibliometric data related to these segments of the literature has been obtained. It will be shown through

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: milad.haghani@sydney.edu.au (M. Haghani).

the macro-level analysis of this literature in Section 3 that, within the last two decades, each major outbreak of a Coronavirus has been immediately followed by a quick surge in the number of scientific studies on the topic and a slow gradual decline afterwards. However, the surge of studies triggered by the latest outbreak, i.e. that of COVID-19, appears to be the largest of all by far, which may be a reflection of the magnitude of the crisis that this new disease has caused. Studies from various disciplines – far beyond medicine and immunology as central fields to understand and mitigate the disease itself – have already emerged on this topic. This includes fields within social sciences, environmental sciences, psychology and veterinary sciences (Decaro et al., 2020), and many more. Clearly, *safety* has been a distinct focus of interest among these studies. As the micro-level scoping analyses of this work in Section 4 demonstrate, at least ten major dimensions of safety research can be identified that have so far attracted the attention of the scientific community. The scholarly efforts on these safety dimensions and their findings and recommendations are synthesised here to help further invigorate academic investigations into the safety impacts of this pandemic. This can be important for informing policies in the face of this emergency. Section 5 concludes the findings while also identifying and discussing a selective list of potential safety-related dimensions with respect to this pandemic that are currently underrepresented in the scholarly domain. These may warrant further attention by the safety research community as the scale and scope of this crises become clearer, not in the least to facilitate wider understanding of the various safety implications as a basis for improved societal preparedness and response to future pandemic outbreaks.

2. Data and methods

Bibliographic details of the scientific literatures on Coronaviruses in general and COVID-19 in particular were retrieved from Scopus, one of the main databases of academic publication records (Mingers and Leydesdorff, 2015). The searches for establishing the datasets used in this article were last updated on 9 April 2020. To obtain the reference database for Coronaviruses the title and abstract of the scientific publications were searched for the term Coronavirus* (including its variations). A total of 12,109 items were obtained. In relation to the COVID-19 literature, the following combination of search terms was used in a title-abstract-keyword search to identify and retrieve the relevant literature: “COVID-19” OR “coronavirus disease 2019” OR “2019-nCov” OR “2019 Novel Coronavirus”. In total, 1,239 search outcomes were obtained.

The bibliographic details of both reference databases (i.e. 12,109 items associated with Coronaviruses and 1,239 items associated with COVID-19), including the list of authors, title, year of publication, source title, volume, issue, page numbers, author affiliations, abstracts, author keywords, index keywords, list of references, document type and some other details, were exported and analysed using scientometric methods. Both databases are accessible as Online Supplementary Material of this article. Tables A1 and A2 in the Appendix provide a list of authors, countries, funding sponsors, institutes and sources with the highest number of publications on these two topics respectively. The tables also provide a list of top subject areas in which these publications have been listed.

For the above datasets on Coronaviruses and COVID-19, scientometric methods are applied in Section 3 to obtain high-level insights in the development of these research domains. Apart from elementary statistics and standard visualization graphs, we apply the VOSviewer software (Van Eck and Waltman, 2010). This tool implements the visualization of similarities approach (Waltman et al., 2010) and is widely used in the wider academic and safety science literature to map clustered networks of authors, journals, collaborating countries, and co-citations. Moreover, VOSviewer also implements text mining algorithms to identify noun phrases from title and abstract of the publications, from which networks, clusters, and heatmaps can be constructed

(van Eck et al., 2010). In Section 3, VOSviewer is used to map journal networks of the literature on Coronaviruses and COVID-19, as well as term clusters and heat maps of frequently occurring terms in these datasets.

Lastly, in order to identify the main dimensions of safety research that have thus far been addressed in the scholarly domain, a scoping review methodology is applied. Such review type is suitable for assessing what is the potential size and scope of the available research literature, and can primarily serve as a basis for directing further research efforts (Grant and Booth, 2009). To this effect, the aforementioned keyword search combination associated with COVID-19 was combined with the term “safety” through the AND-operator. The search included the title, abstract, and keywords of the articles. This search resulted in a total of 41 articles which were individually studied and filtered out depending on the extent of their relevance to safety research. Among those, 34 items were deemed relevant. Table A3 in the Appendix provides a synthesis of the methods, findings, and recommendations of these articles (where applicable) as well the safety dimensions to which they relate. These dimensions will be outlined in Section 4.

3. Macro-level analysis of the literature

All publications on COVID-19 expect for one item were listed as 2020 publications. As to the literature addressing Coronaviruses, the oldest items found was an item listed as short survey published by *Nature* in 1968. In that publication a group of virologists are named who recognised a then-new group of viruses called Coronaviruses (Almeida et al., 1968).

Fig. 1(a) visualises the temporal development of the publications on Coronaviruses since 1968, i.e. the distribution of the scientific publications over the years, as well as the cumulative number of publications. Three clear spikes in the number of publications can be observed: one in 2003 (followed by another year of increased number of publication and then a gradual decline), one in 2013 (again, followed by another year of increased number of publication and then a slight decline), and the last one in 2020. The first spike coincides with the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in 2002 and 2003 (Dodd and Stramer, 2020; Law et al., 2020). The second one is attributable to the MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak in 2012 (Sheng et al., 2020), which reinvigorated the scholarly attention to Coronaviruses. Evidently, the last spike follows the current COVID-19 outbreak. Fig. 1 (d) and (f) respectively illustrate the authors and journals with greatest number of publications on Coronaviruses. The *Journal of Virology* has published by far the most items on this topic, with journals such as *Virology*, *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology* following at a considerable distance. The figure also shows that the top-10 journals all focus on virological and medical topics.

Focusing on the reference database of the studies on COVID-19, Fig. 1 shows the subject areas (part (b)), article types (part (c)), authors (part (e)) and journals (part (g)) with the highest number of publications on this topic. Understandably, most publications on COVID-19 have thus far appeared in journals listed under the field of *Medicine*, highlighting the concerted efforts on clinical aspects of the fight against this pandemic, compared to which all other aspects currently have received much less scientific attention. Interestingly, only under 40% of these publications are articles, whereas a substantial portion of the contributions to this domain are in the form of letters, notes, editorials and reviews. *British Medical Journal* (Clinical Research ed.) (*BMJ*) and *Lancet* have so far published the highest number of items on this topic, having collectively published nearly 37% of all publications on COVID-19 thus far.

The bibliographic coupling of the sources that have published studies on the Coronaviruses and COVID-19 is further analysed using VOSviewer (Van Eck and Waltman, 2013), an open-access software for bibliometric analysis as outlined in Section 2 (Mingers and Leydesdorff, 2015). Fig. 2 illustrates the outputs of this analysis. The bibliographic

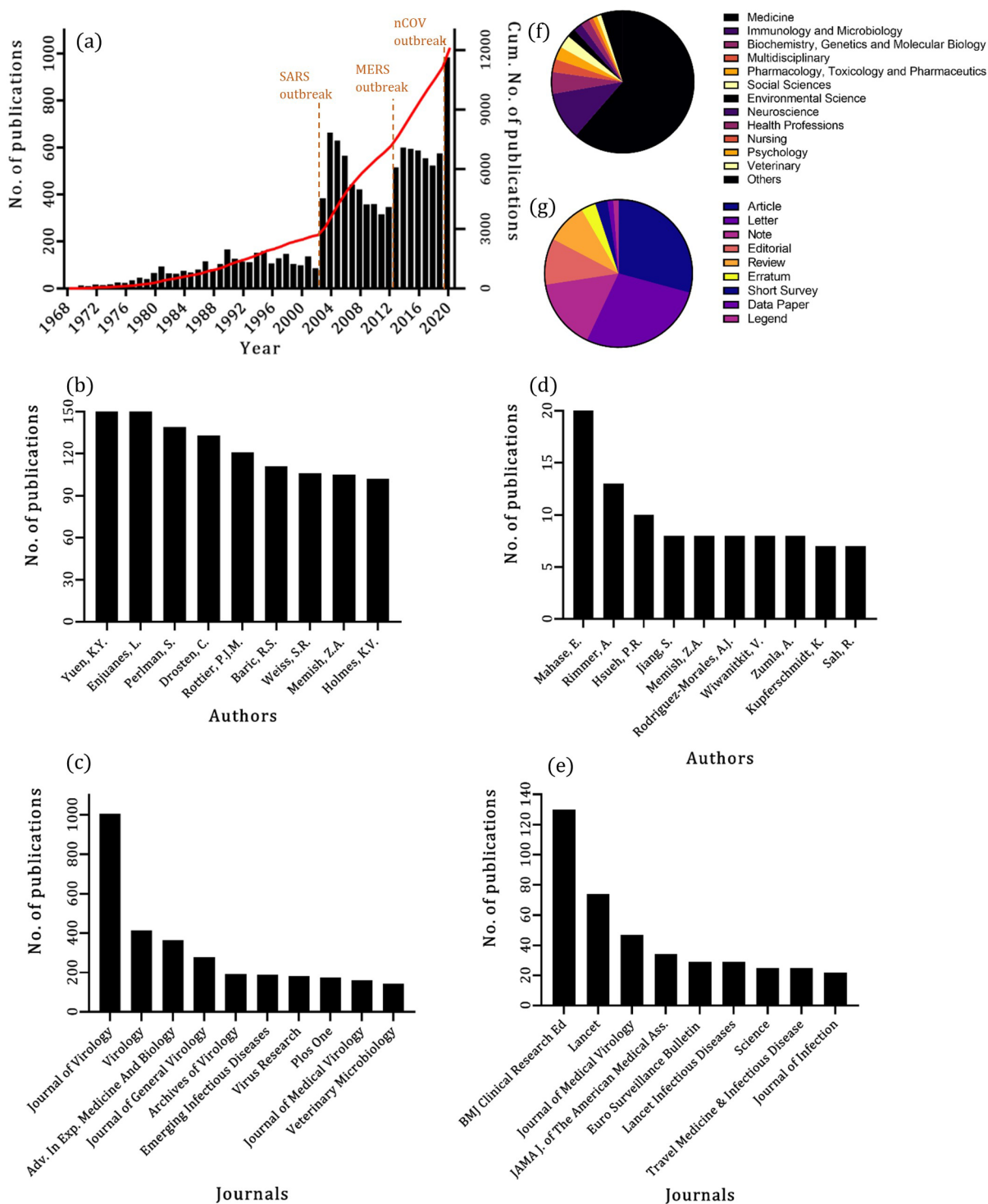


Fig. 1. Summary statistics on bibliographic details of the studies published on Coronaviruses and COVID-19. (a) The temporal distribution of the publications on Coronaviruses as well as their cumulative number of publications (data for 2020 only represents the first three months). Plots (b) and (c) show most published authors and journals on Coronaviruses respectively. Plots (d) and (e) show authors and journals with the highest number of publications on COVID-19 respectively. Plots (f) and (g) respectively show the top subject areas and top document types for publications on COVID-19.

networks visualised in Fig. 2 through heat maps associated with each topic are based on the number of the references that publications of each source share with each other on each of the two topics of interest. Two journals are bibliographically coupled when their documents published on our topic of interest cite one or more document(s) in common, and the higher the number of their shared references, the stronger their coupling relationship. The more intensely the red shade

corresponding to the journal name, the more dominant the journal as a knowledge outlet. The spatial closeness between journals corresponds to the number of references that publications of those sources share in each database. The results provide insights in the publication intensity across journals, complementary to Fig. 1(c) and (e).

Fig. 3 visualises the number of publications originating from various geographical regions of the world based on the Scopus data on the

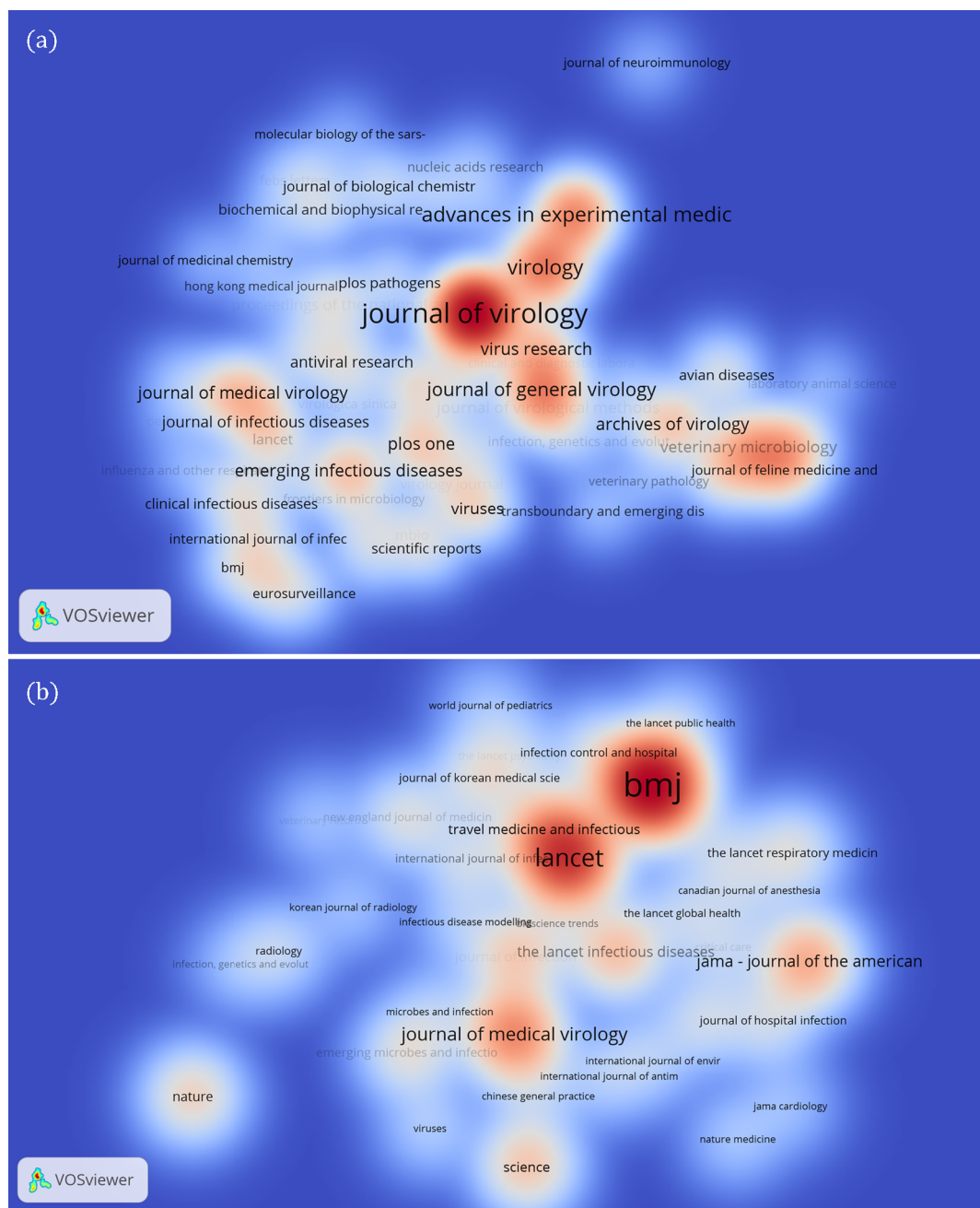


Fig. 2. Heat map of the sources that have published studies on (a) Coronaviruses and (b) COVID-19. In (a) and (b) the minimum number of documents of a journal to be visualised is respectively 20 and 5. The item weights are proportional to the number of documents published by each source.

country of submission. While researchers in the United States have contributed the highest number of research items to the topic of Coronaviruses, followed by Chinese authors, this order is reversed for the literature published on COVID-19. On COVID-19, nearly 30% of all published studies have thus far originated from China, with the United States accounting for nearly 14%. Research outputs originating from other geographical areas are currently significantly less voluminous, with gaps apparent especially in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Finally, a keyword analysis is conducted using VOSviewer, on the terms appearing in the title and abstract of the publications on the datasets on Coronaviruses and COVID-19. The most frequently used keywords in title and abstract of the studies so far published on COVID-19 are illustrated in Fig. 4 where the size of each rectangle is proportional to the frequency of the term. The terms *human** and *Coronavirus*

*infection** and *viral pneumonia* (including their variations, *humans*, *Coronavirus infections* and *pneumonia virus*) appear to be the most frequently used terms in the title and abstracts of publications on COVID-19. The fact that COVID-19 is from the family of the Coronaviruses has a clear reflection on the key terms of the publications with *Coronavirus* being also a top term. The relation of the virus to China as the geographical region where the outbreak began has also been reflected in the key terms with *China* being one of the most used terms.

Fig. 5 presents a more detailed output of the scientometric mapping analysis for both Coronaviruses and COVID-19 topics. The network of most frequently occurring key terms are shown in Fig. 5, whereas the corresponding heat maps are shown in Fig. 6. In the network images, the size of each node is proportional to the appearance frequency of associated term. The relatedness of the key terms is also based on the number of times that they appear in the same publication. More related

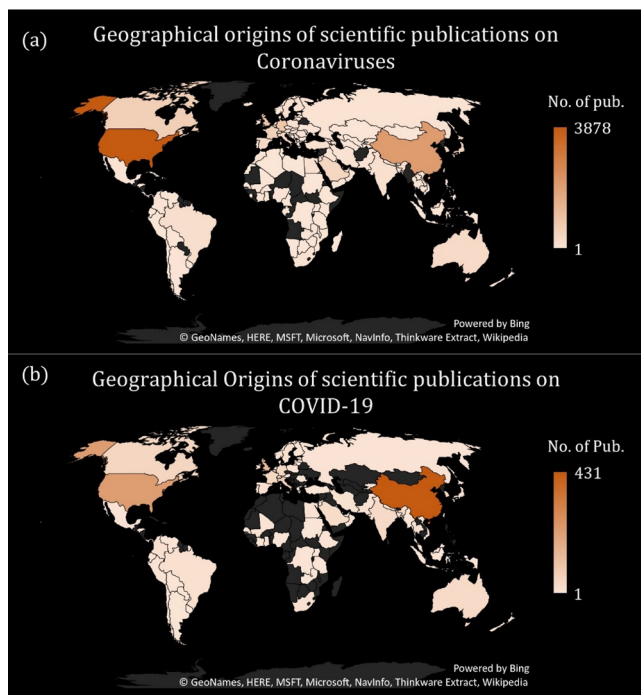


Fig. 3. The distribution of the geographical origin of the scholarly publications (a) on Coronaviruses, (b) on COVID-19.

key terms are generally visualised in closer proximity to each other, while the colours in the network visualisation represent the clusters of related key terms. In publications related to coronaviruses, as well as for the publications on COVID-19, three distinct clusters are detected.

In Fig. 5(a), which addresses Coronaviruses, the red cluster focuses

on biomedical sciences, addressing aspects of medical microbiology and genetic epidemiology. As seen from Fig. 6(a), important terms in this cluster relate to phenomena at the cell level, with terms such as ‘gene’, ‘sequence’, ‘structure’, ‘protein’, ‘receptors’, and ‘rna’. The blue cluster appears to focus on veterinary virology, with terms such as ‘bovine coronavirus’, ‘feline coronavirus’, ‘cat’, ‘dog’, ‘transmissible gastroenteritis’, and ‘rotavirus’. Terms associated with lab animals (‘rat’, ‘mouse’) however appear in the red cluster. The green cluster focuses on medical science and patient and public health, with terms such as ‘patient’, ‘case’, ‘diagnosis’, ‘illness’, ‘hospital’, ‘influenza’, ‘transmission’, and ‘epidemic’. It also contains terms related to symptoms which are associated with Coronaviruses, such as ‘fever’, ‘cough’, ‘chill’, ‘sore throat’, and ‘viral pneumonia’. Finally, it contains names of countries, regions, or cities which play an important role in the outbreak, and/or from where significant research originates. Examples include ‘Hong Kong’, ‘Wuhan’, ‘Saudi Arabia’, and ‘Italy’.

The term cluster and heat maps on COVID-19 in Fig. 5(b) and Fig. 6(b) show a somewhat similar picture, although it is understandably somewhat less developed. The green cluster focuses on the origin and cause of the new Coronavirus, with terms such as ‘cause’, ‘bat’, ‘human’ and ‘interaction’. It also includes a narrative addressing the public health implications of the outbreak and the response of the medical sciences, with terms such as ‘vaccine’, ‘development’, ‘transmissibility’, ‘public health’, ‘scientist’, and ‘insight’. Comparisons with other viruses, such as ‘mer’, and ‘sars’ are also apparent. The red cluster in Fig. 5(b) focuses on the clinical characteristics of the disease, with terms such as ‘cough’, ‘fever’, ‘headache’, ‘chest’, and on differences between the sexes. Another apparent narrative includes the public health response, with terms such as ‘laboratory’, ‘hospital’, and ‘exposure’. The blue cluster appears to focus on the actions and response to the pandemic to ensure safety and health, with terms such as ‘knowledge’, ‘lesson’, ‘experience’, ‘guideline’, and ‘travel’. Overall, the term cluster and heat map of COVID-19 in Figs. 5(b) and 6(b) show narratives focusing more on the immediate response to the disease outbreak, whereas the

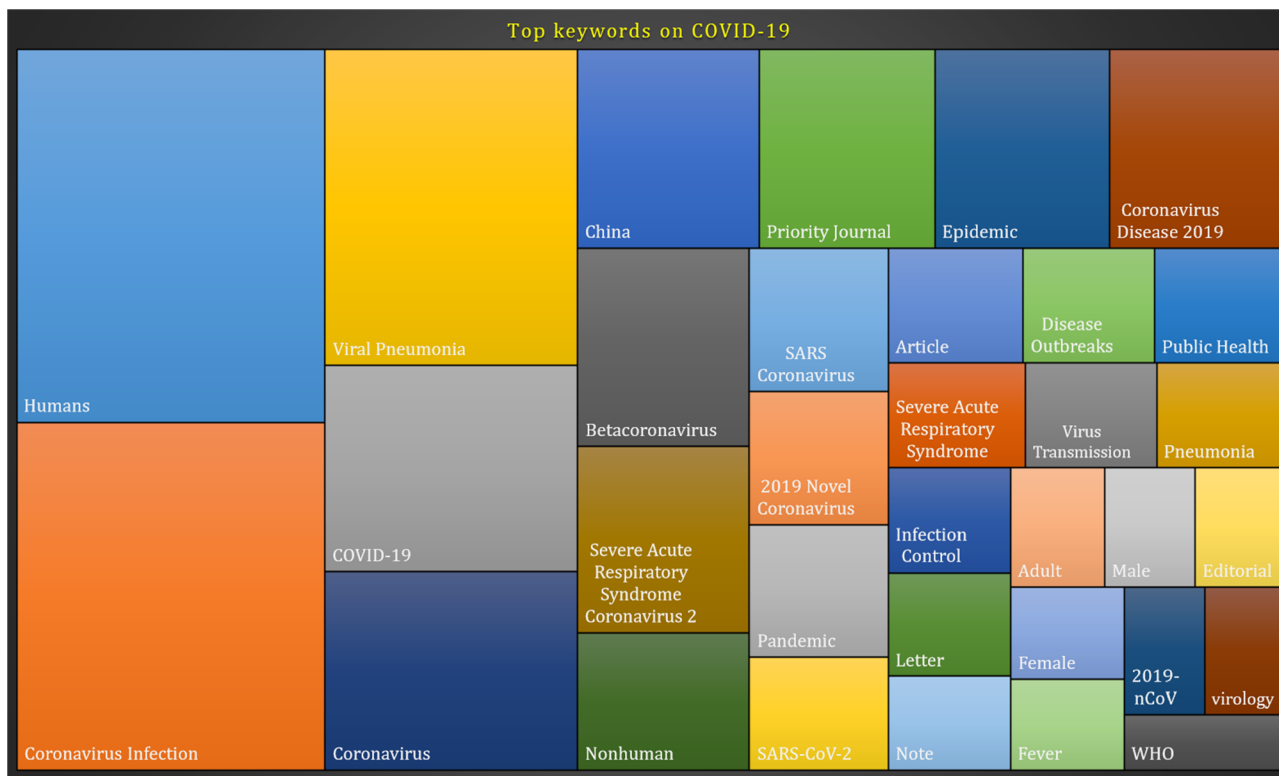


Fig. 4. Most frequent terms appeared in the title and abstract of the publications on COVID-19 based on the Scopus analyse search results.

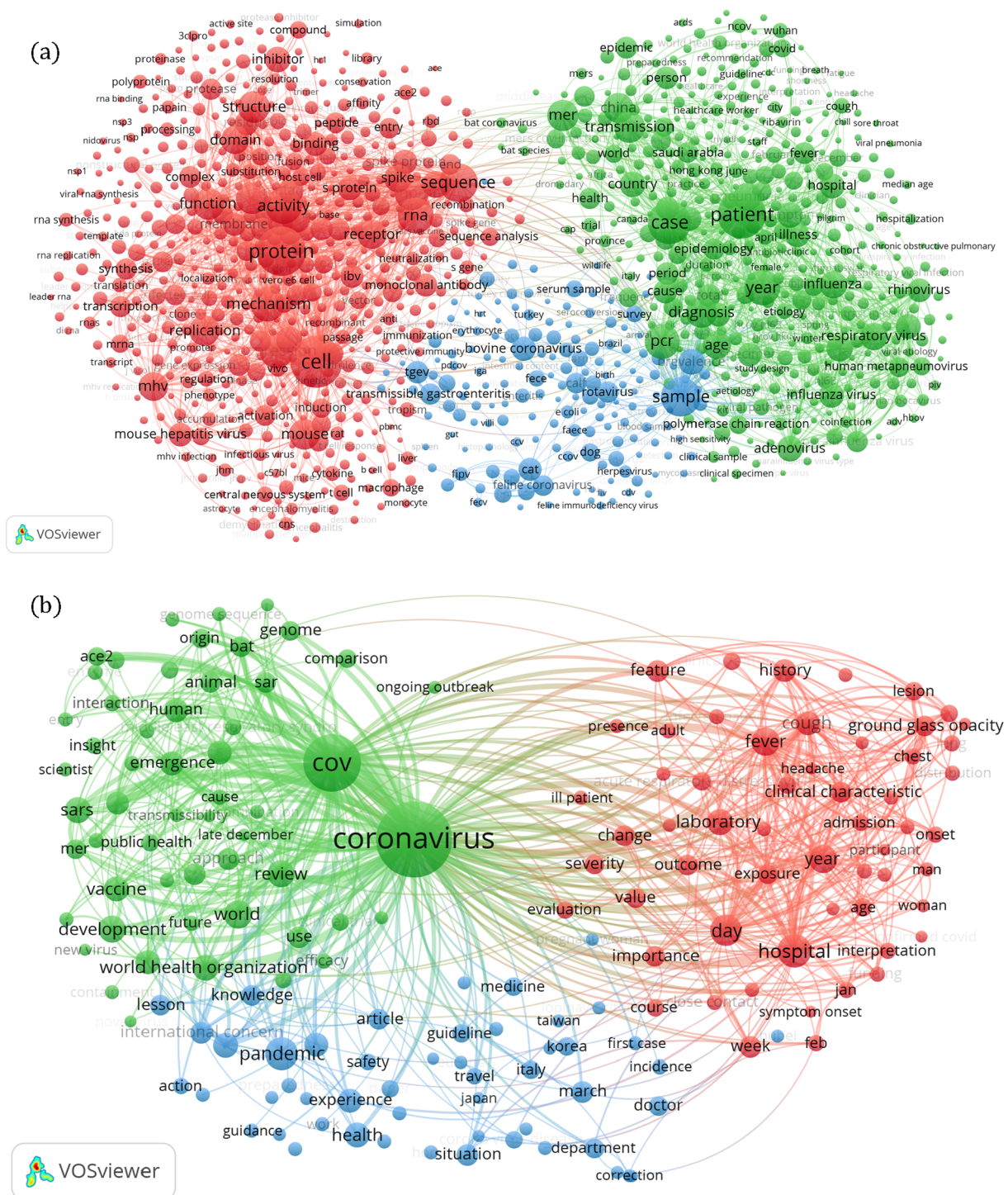


Fig. 5. The network of the hot terms associated with publications on (a) Coronaviruses and (b) COVID-19.

maps in Figs. 5(a) and 6(a) for Coronaviruses include more established scientific knowledge.

Fig. 7 visualises the network of key terms on Coronaviruses (corresponding to the network structure of Fig. 5(a)), overlaid with the colour-coding of the average year of publications when the terms have appeared. According to this map, the terms ‘MERS COV’, ‘COVID’ and ‘nCov’, ‘Wuhan’, ‘China’, and ‘bat coronavirus’ are all very recent terms in

the scientific literature, for example compared to the terms ‘bovine coronavirus’ and ‘feline coronavirus’. Generally, it is apparent that the blue cluster from Fig. 5(a), focusing on veterinary virology, is the oldest. The red cluster from Fig. 5(a), which addresses aspects of biomedical sciences, is comparatively younger, while the green cluster, focusing on the public health implications, is comparatively the youngest. This suggests a scientific progress of discovery and study of

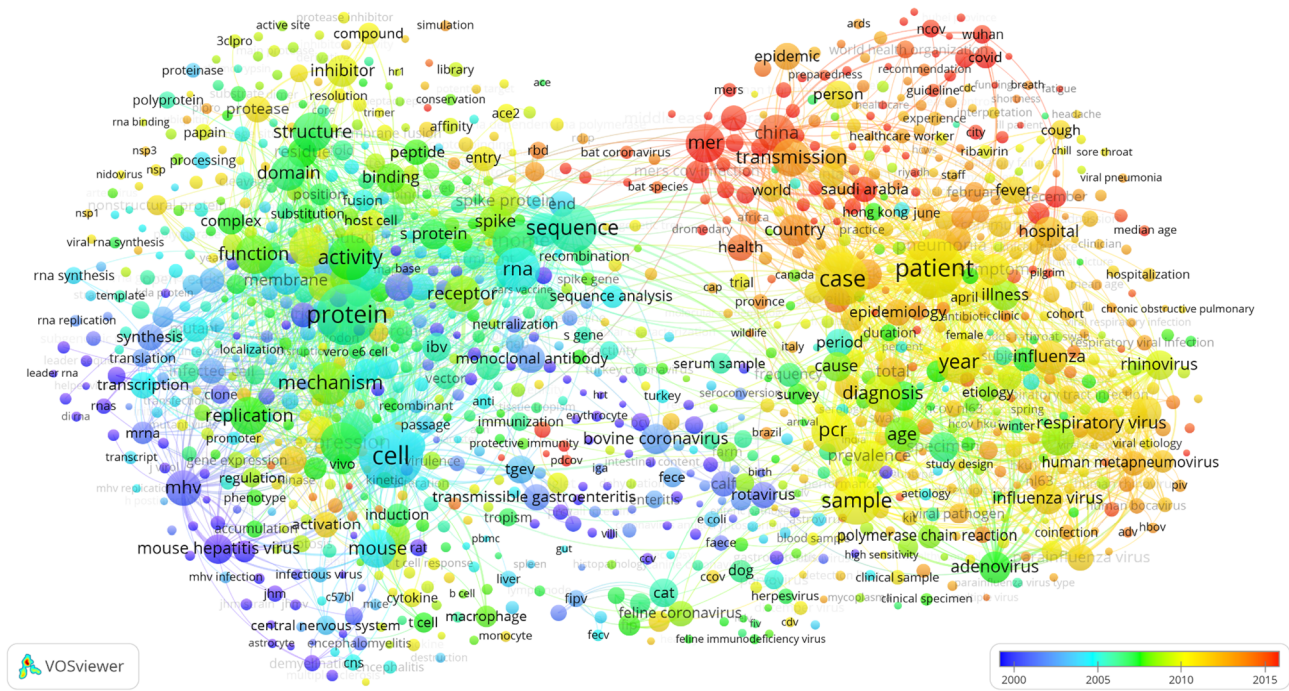


Fig. 7. The network of the hot terms associated with publications on Coronaviruses overlaid with a colour-coding of the average year of publications in which each term has appeared. The minimum number of occurrences for each term to be included in the map is 30 times.

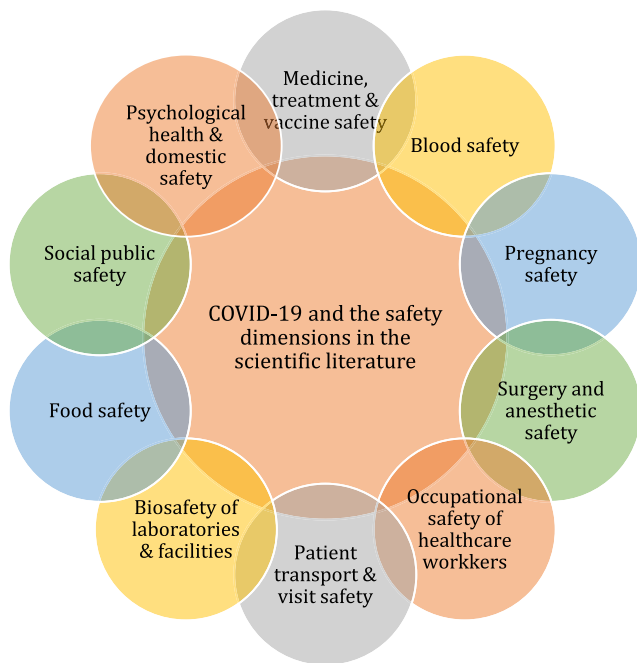


Fig. 8. Research dimensions related to the safety impact of the COVID-19 pandemic addressed by academic studies.

summarises the ten safety-related dimensions which were identified in the safety-focused publications related to COVID-19. These dimensions are briefly described in the following.

4.1. Medicine, treatment and vaccine safety

Among the emerging scholarly efforts in addressing the safety concerns of the COVID-19 global emergency, a significant portion of the studies have understandably focused on aspects related to the safety of medicine, treatment and vaccines as one of the most urgent matters in battling this pandemic (Cellina et al., 2020; Gray and Belessis, 2020; Schlagenhaut et al., 2020; Sodhi and Etmnan, 2020; Zhang, 2020; Zheng et al., 2020a). In doing so, many studies have synthesised the scientific evidence regarding the safety and efficacy of various treatments based on experiences obtained from previous pandemics of similar nature, such as SARS and MERS. Highlighting the high degree of genetic similarity between SARS-COV and COVID-19, an overview by Chen et al. (2020d) outlines various vaccine development programs and different vaccine technologies that are currently being examined based on experiences with SARS. They emphasise that these vaccine strategies need to be evaluated for their safety and efficacy, with specific consideration for issues specific to vaccination of vulnerable populations such as elderly and those with debilitating chronic conditions. A considerable amount of scientific efforts is focused on the development of treatments, concerning which several studies appeared on the safety and efficacy of chloroquine and its variants such as hydroxychloroquine (Liu et al., 2020a) as potential treatment for COVID-19 (Cortegiani et al., 2020; Devaux et al., 2020). The study of Cortegiani et al. (2020) is a systematic review of the safety and efficacy of chloroquine for the treatment of COVID-19. It reflects the evidence from the ongoing clinical trials and suggests that the current promising evidence justify more clinical research into this potential treatment. Devaux et al. (2020) also suggest that the preliminary trials of chloroquine in China have been promising in terms of both safety and efficacy, which has led to several new trials.

4.2. Blood safety

Blood safety has been another matter of interest among the studies on COVID-19 that have emerged from the medical fields (Dodd and Stramer, 2020). The study of Chang et al. (2020) highlights the commonness of viral shedding in plasma or serum in coronaviruses, suggesting a transmission risk through transfusion of blood products. In their study, they review the existing evidence regarding the transmission of SARS, MERS and SARS-Cov2 through blood products and outline different methods for inactivation of coronavirus in blood products.

4.3. Pregnancy safety

A cohort of studies have investigated issues surrounding the safety of pregnancy in relation to COVID-19 (Al-Tawfiq, 2020; Chen et al., 2020a; Luo and Yin, 2020; Rasmussen et al., 2020; Schwartz and Graham, 2020; Zambrano et al., 2020). The study of Schwartz and Graham (2020) reviews the published data on epidemiological and clinical effect of SARS and MERS and other coronavirus infections on pregnant women and their infants. They provide recommendations for including pregnant women in the design of COVID-19 vaccine trials. Based on a retrospective review of the clinical records of pregnant women with confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia, Chen et al. (2020a) suggest that the clinical characteristics of these patients were similar to those non-pregnant adult patients with COVID-19. They furthermore find no evidence of vertical transmission from pregnant women to their infants who develop COVID-19 during late pregnancy. The study of Rasmussen et al. (2020) lays out various dimensions and principles of management of COVID-19 disease in pregnancy.

4.4. Surgery and anesthetic safety

Considerations have been given regarding safety of surgery and anesthesia (Aslam and Mehra, 2020; Kang et al., 2020b; Ng et al., 2020; Rasmussen and Koelling, 2020; Wang et al., 2020c) for COVID-19 patients, both from the perspective of patient safety (Chen et al., 2020b) and from the safety of medical staff (Givi et al., 2020). Based on the clinical records of 17 patients, the study of Chen et al. (2020b) discusses the management and safety of general anesthesia for Caesarean delivery in COVID-19 patients, including issues related to patient transfer, biosafety precautions, and the protection of the medical staff involved in the surgery. Based on a review of the literature and through communications with physicians, Givi et al. (2020) also provide a set of safety recommendations related to the diagnostic and therapeutic procedures of the neck and upper aerodigestive tract diseases (Lovato et al., 2020) in patients with COVID-19.

4.5. Occupational safety of healthcare workers

Considering that medical professionals are at a higher risk of exposure, the occupational safety of healthcare professionals has been a major focus of research in relation to COVID-19 (Ambigapathy et al., 2020; Belingheri et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2020e; Cheung et al., 2020; Joob and Wiwanitkit, 2020; Yifan et al., 2020). Cheung et al. (2020) argue that medical professionals who are involved in aerosol-generating procedures for COVID-19 patients, such as non-invasive ventilation or intubation, have a particularly higher infection risk. Based on their experience in an intensive care unit, they describe procedural safety recommendations which aim to help manage the risk to healthcare staff while maintaining quality care. Ambigapathy et al. (2020) provide a list of recommendations based on a review of the literature as to how front-line general practitioners should safely use Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE) and discuss the importance of educating patients about PPE.

4.6. Patient transport and visit safety

A number of studies have discussed the issues related to the safety of patient transport. Based on the principles related to the influenza pandemic, Liew et al. (2020) outline a set of recommendations for safe patient transport for both suspected and confirmed cases, for both inter- and intra-hospital transports. To mitigate the risks involved in the transport of suspected COVID-19 cases, there have been models of care that avoid face-to-face contact between clinicians and patients which can also reduce the risk to the medical professionals. The method of video consultation has been discussed by Greenhalgh et al. (2020), who provide evidence from randomised trials showing that video consultations have been associated with high patient and staff satisfaction, lower care cost, and no significant difference in disease progression. They however highlight that such evidence underrepresents cases of patients with acute and potentially serious illness such as COVID-19. They compare the benefits and potential downsides of video consultations, in particular in relation to the COVID-19 disease.

4.7. Biosafety of medical facilities

The biosafety of laboratories and medical facilities has also attracted the attention of researchers in relation to COVID-19 pandemic (Hamzavi et al., 2020; Sultan et al., 2020; Xu et al., 2020). For example, the study of Kooraki et al. (2020) reviews precautions and safety measures specific to radiology departments in relation to dealing with known or suspected COVID-19 patients. These recommendations are meant to help manage the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the department and staff in the radiology departments and are thus also related to the topic of occupational safety. They argue that this requires a multidisciplinary committee to convene and outline such safeguarding guidelines. From a different perspective, Nie et al. (2020) discuss the biosafety considerations involved in the handling of the pseudo-virus for Coronaviruses. This requires level 3 biosafety facilities, which the authors highlight as one of the obstacles on the way of vaccine development. Consequently, they propose a series of pseudo-virus-based neutralisation assays and protocols for SARS-COV-2 which are safer and can be handled in biosafety level 2 facilities.

4.8. Food safety

Shariatifar and Molaee-aghaee (2019) highlight the food safety issues in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. They list traditional and modern methods of inactivating viruses in food. Furthermore, they provide recommendations related to people's behaviour, including both consumers and procedures, during the handling of the food product that can mitigate the risk of virus spread. From a different perspective, Yuan et al. (2020) provide recommendations regarding food safety, in order to prevent the exposure of humans to novel viruses from wild animals. This includes enhancing public awareness, establishing legislations on eating and trading wild animals, and putting in place mechanisms of market supervision to ensure food safety standards.

4.9. Social safety

The viewpoint written by Bachireddy et al. (2020) discusses the significant role of the Medicaid programs as an important social public safety net in the United States in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. They argue how this pandemic has exposed gaps in the social safety net

in the United States and discuss how through a series of actions, Medicaid programs could play a key role in protecting the public and supporting public health efforts in the battle with this pandemic. These recommendations cover dimensions such as the flexibility to maintain or increase enrolment, expanding the options to cover tele-visits, removing barriers to billing related to diagnosis and treatment, expanding home-based care coverage, easing limits on prescription drugs, and assisting special segments of the population.

4.10. Mental/psychological health and domestic safety

In addition to the biological health and safety of the general population as well as healthcare professionals, a stream of research has also addressed potential threats to the mental/psychological health and domestic safety challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis (Dalton et al., 2020; Davis et al., 2020; Joob and Wiwanitkit, 2020; Kang et al., 2020a; Liu et al., 2020b; Montemurro, 2020; Shi and Hall, 2020). It is clear that psychological well-being and physical safety are intrinsically interconnected and cannot be reasonably categorised as fully separate safety dimensions. Severe depression and anxiety can lead to self-harm and even suicide and domestic violence which all affect the physical well-being of individuals. Nevertheless, the focus of studies in this stream is on the indirect mental health impacts of this global epidemic rather than the biological and clinical aspects.

In line with these efforts, Li et al. (2020) conducted a machine learning and sentiment analysis of the Chinese microblogging website Weibo posts during the outbreak. Their observations indicate increased negative emotions including anxiety and depression, increased sensitivity to social risks, and declined happiness and life satisfaction in the population. Barari et al. (2020) also sampled and surveyed Italian population and concluded that people, even those who do not trust the government, generally accept the public health messages during this crisis. Compliance is generally high although slightly lower among young adults. Their survey also indicated that the quarantine has started to have serious negative effects on mental health. In light of their findings, they proposed that communications during the crisis should shift focus from mere advice to stay at home to more informative and constructive behavioural interventions, such as activities that can counter the impact of isolation. The study of Wang et al. (2020a) reports on another survey of the general public in China aiming to better understand the psychological impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. Their findings indicate that more than half of the studied population rated the psychological impact of the outbreak as moderate or severe. Women, students, and individuals with poor self-rated health were observed to be associated with greater levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.

In a letter to the editor, Alves et al. (2020) highlight the potential impact of this crisis on heightening the risk of family violence particularly in rural areas and especially in families with a history of recurrent domestic violence. They argue for intensifying protective measures during this pandemic. Along the same lines, another study has highlighted the potential effects of domestic violence on children during isolation (Bradbury-Jones and Isham).

Managing mental health challenges faced by healthcare workers during the pandemic has been another issue of concern in scholarly studies. Greenberg et al. (2020) highlight the problem of 'moral injury' that could potentially lead to suicide among healthcare workers. Cases of suicide have unfortunately already been recorded among healthcare professionals since the recent outbreak (Jun et al., 2020; Schwartz and Graham, 2020). Greenberg et al. (2020) provide a list of measures that can be taken in order to protect healthcare workers from the potentially harmful effect of moral injury during this emergency.

5. Discussion, future research directions, and conclusions

The unprecedented rate at which scientific publications related to the COVID-19 pandemic are emerging, and the large societal concerns related to many aspects related to the impacts of the pandemic, makes synthesising scientific knowledge more important than ever. In light of this, the aim of the current work was to capture, document and demonstrate the extent and scope of the scholarly research efforts that have been conducted on COVID-19 and the general class of coronaviruses. In particular, various relevant research dimensions of the interest to the safety research community are identified, which may help practitioners and decision makers understand relevant aspects of occupational, physical, medical, and public safety.

Rapid and timely accumulation of knowledge and empirical evidence is critical for policymakers and emergency managers faced with this crisis to maximally inform their decisions through scientific evidence. This also requires a systematic re-visiting of the existing knowledge to identify gaps and overlooked areas in order to better guide and mobilise the expertise of academics towards effective solutions. It is hoped that this study can contribute towards accelerating and facilitating these scientific efforts and bringing the safety-implications of this global emergency to the attention of the safety research community. Such implications, as demonstrated by the scientometric analyses and the scoping review, go far beyond the biological and immunological aspects and of the research on vaccines and medical treatment, which are obviously scientific priorities. Rather, these safety implications also include factors related to the non-physical safety and mental wellbeing of the public and particularly medical professionals, as well as issues related to the protection of social safety, food safety, patient transport safety and the biosafety of facilities and laboratories. As evidenced by this review, a great portion of the knowledge that is being leveraged today in the fight against the COVID-19 disease has been obtained as a result of the research efforts that were made in response to previous pandemics of similar nature (Bruinen de Bruin et al., 2020; De Giorgio, 2020; Feng et al., 2020; Hatchett et al., 2007; Lee et al., 2020; Viner et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2020d; Zhang and Qian, 2020).

Clearly, further accumulation of scientific research during and after the current epidemic could equip human societies and help them better prepare for health emergencies of global scale in the future. In this regard, the current work aims to highlight the safety dimensions related to which some research has already been published in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors hope that this can inspire other academics to identify gaps in the scope of the presented safety dimensions, in an effort to build an as diverse as possible picture of the safety implications of the current pandemic. Casting a wide net of pandemic-related safety research now can greatly facilitate societal and organizational learning in handling future pandemics. In this regard, it is highlighted that according to the Global Risks Report 2020 (WEF, 2020), infectious diseases is ranked the second-highest societal risk (after water crises), with only a few technological, geopolitical, and environmental risks higher rated. Thus, considering also that epidemic outbreaks have occurred relatively frequently in the past as shown e.g. in Fig. 1(a), building safety-related knowledge for the current pandemic now, may contribute to better preparedness and response for the next outbreak.

Moving beyond the obvious medical safety implications of the COVID-19 pandemic –such as the safety of vaccines, medicine, treatments, patient visits, laboratory testings– that have so far dominated the scholarly efforts in this domain, we would like to highlight a selective list of potential safety dimensions that, according to the presented scoping review, have not been represented in the published

studies.

One example concerns the sudden shift of the educational, economic, business, clinical care and many other activities to the online domain during this global emergency, which could potentially create unprecedented concerns with respect to the *cyber safety* of both individuals and institutes. The physical isolation itself could potentially give rise to a sharp increase in the use of social media and even dating websites and online shopping. On such platforms, problems such as cyber bullying and information safety, are important emerging issues (Antoniadou and Kokkinos, 2015; Bi et al., 2019). Academics may pay more attention to this aspect of safety, which could affect individuals, institutes and businesses, under the unique circumstances this pandemic entail.

Our analysis alluded to a limited research effort on the implications of this epidemic on *economic and social safety* (Bayham and Fenichel, 2020), such as the study of Bachireddy et al. (2020) outlining how Medicaid programs could be utilised to act as a social safety net in the United States. However, more studies seem to be warranted on the effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of implemented policies and legislative actions to help protect the economic safety of societies at both micro and macro levels to mitigate or manage the financial fallouts caused by the epidemic (Hafiz et al., 2020; Kabir et al., 2020; Murphy et al., 2020; Van Lancker and Parolin, 2020). More also needs to be understood about the ways to protect the mental and physical health as well as social safety of vulnerable populations such as those of the low-income demographics (Van Lancker and Parolin, 2020), community dwelling older adults (Kuwahara et al., 2020), children and adolescents in temporary accommodations (Rosenthal et al., 2020), or migrants and refugees in temporary accommodations (Bozorgmehr et al., 2020; Daw, 2020; Kabir et al., 2020; Kluge et al., 2020).

In terms of occupational safety, the scoping review indicated that there has been some work addressing primarily the occupational safety of healthcare workers and staff in medical testing facilities. However, it is evident that in many countries, many workers in so-called essential services were tasked to remain professionally active to keep some key societal functions and utilities running. It is apparent that several such worker categories were exposed to higher infection risks than the general public, including grocery store staff, public transport and taxi drivers, and nursing home workers. With most of these workers having no prior knowledge of how to handle their personal safety in pandemics, anxiety and stress are important *occupational hazards* which would be important to build scientific evidence about. In addition, the effectiveness of safety measures in such different work environments, and their related training and behavioural implications, would be interesting areas of study.

Early media reporting indicated certain levels of societal anxiety in relation to the continuity and robustness of the supply chains—particularly those of food and essential products—which often manifested in the form of hoarding and so-called ‘panic shopping’. Although there is a well-established literature on this domain (Baghalian et al., 2013; Molero et al., 2017; Pan and Nagi, 2010; Tang, 2006; Yang, 2011), considering that this appeared to be a major concern of the public in the face of epidemics of this magnitude, further research seems to be needed on how to enhance the *safety and robustness of supply chains* while taking into account specific characteristics of the current health

emergency. This may entail system-level studies of the disruptive effects of the impacts of the pandemic on essential multi-modal commodity supply chains by sea, land, or air freight. Furthermore, the *occupational safety* of port and aviation staff (Eldin et al., 2020), and seafarers and cruise line personnel are areas where research contributions are currently lacking. Many of these workers likely endured heightened levels of stress and anxiety due to prolonged periods at sea, sometimes on-board ships with confirmed infections and deaths, or in uncertain conditions far away from their families. Some work on occupational safety of these groups of workers exists, e.g. Useche et al. (2018) and Shan and Lippel (2019), but the authors are not aware of any research on occupational safety of these workers in a pandemic outbreak context.

Furthermore, while there is a substantial amount of scientific studies on crowd control and management (Feliciani and Nishinari, 2018; Haghani and Sarvi, 2018), not much appears to have been done to study specific characteristics of crowd control during health emergencies of this nature which require spatial distancing measures. At the early stages of the pandemic, before extreme lockdown measures were in place in many geographical regions, certain societies had introduced more moderate measures to mitigate the risk of potential outbreaks that involved keeping the density of human congregation in public spaces below certain thresholds. Similar measures could be expected during the transition from strict isolation measures back to more moderate measures once the acute severity of this public health emergency diminishes. We assume that these unprecedented challenges should require the expertise of the researchers active in this domain to propose methods and solutions for how to enforce such restrictions regarding *crowd management and safety*. Such research could be highly relevant in open public spaces such as parks, recreational areas, and beaches, in closed public spaces such as grocery shops, university buildings and particularly hospital emergency departments (Chen et al., 2020c), also in closed spaces such as office buildings, cruise vessels, or airplanes (Eldin et al., 2020) as well as public or shared transport vehicles (Zheng et al., 2020b).

On a similar note, it has been observed during this epidemic that the identification of positive cases of infected individuals has often resulted in the evacuation of the buildings, such as those of workplaces. It is assumed that, during the evacuation process, if appropriate measures are not taken to manage the evacuation process, a hasty unregulated evacuation in such instances could itself lead to heightened levels of spatial human concentration which can elevate the risk of contracting the virus for evacuees, particularly in high-occupancy buildings. In light of these concerns, we suggest that evacuation experts could revisit and further study the particular issues relevant to this problem and to propose appropriate methods and solutions for *evacuation safety*.

It is essential to emphasise that the above discussion only covers a selective list of potential ways by which further academic research could address perhaps less obvious safety implications of the epidemic. The scholarly literature that is being generated in response to this global emergency is immensely dynamic and rapidly developing. Therefore, it is expected that more scientific evidence and solutions be offered on these and other under-researched safety dimensions as new studies emerge.

Appendix A
Tables A1–A3.

Table A1
Summary statistics on scholarly publications related to Coronaviruses.

No.	Authors	Count	Country/ Regions	Count	Funding sponsors	Count	Institutes	Count	Subject areas	Count	Sources	Count
1	Yuen, K.Y.	168	United States	3878	National Institutes of Health	643	The University of Hong Kong	441	Medicine	5168	Journal of Virology	1005
2	Enjuanes, L.	164	China	2020	National Natural Science Foundation of China	360	Chinese Academy of Sciences	285	Immunology and Microbiology	4923	Virology	414
3	Perlman, S.	139	United Kingdom	890	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	253	Utrecht University	284	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	2744	Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology	365
4	Drosten, C.	133	Germany	823	National Basic Research Program of China (973 Program)	128	National Institutes of Health, Bethesda	220	Agricultural and Biological Sciences	1794	Journal of General Virology	278
5	Rottier, P.J.M.	121	The Netherlands	660	European Commission	110	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	212	Veterinary	1587	Archives of Virology	192
6	Bartic, R.S.	111	China	625	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	89	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	190	Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	572	Emerging Infectious Diseases	188
7	Weiss, S.R.	106	Canada	614	U.S. Public Health Service	64	Department Infectieziekten en Immunologie, Universiteit Utrecht	178	Multidisciplinary	477	Virus Research	182
8	Memish, Z.A.	105	France	553	Chinese Academy of Sciences	57	Chinese University of Hong Kong	177	Chemistry	223	Plos One	175
9	Holmes, K.V.	102	Japan	482	National Science Council	55	University of Iowa	154	Environmental Science	201	Journal of Medical Virology	161
10	Makino, S.	91	South Korea	403	National Multiple Sclerosis Society	52	CSIC - Centro Nacional de Biotecnología CNB	150	Neuroscience	174	Veterinary Microbiology	143
11	Peiris, J.S.M.	91	Saudi Arabia	394	University of Hong Kong	52	Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia	148	Engineering	112	Journal of Virological Methods	134
12	Woo, P.C.Y.	91	Italy	362	U.S. Department of Agriculture	48	Faculteit Diergeneeskunde, Universiteit Utrecht	144	Mathematics	97	Viruses	132
13	Talbot, P.J.	89	Taiwan, China	336	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	43	Queen Mary Hospital Hong Kong	139	Computer Science	96	Journal of Clinical Microbiology	127
14	Jiang, S.	88	Singapore	309	Wellcome Trust	42	Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg	136	Chemical Engineering	85	Journal of Infectious Diseases	115
15	Saif, L.J.	88	Spain	294	National Research Foundation of Korea	41	Academy of Military Medical Science China	135	Physics and Astronomy	75	Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences Of The United States Of America	101
16	Stohlman, S.A.	88	Switzerland	270	National Science Foundation	40	Erasmus MC	134	Social Sciences	70	American Journal of Veterinary Research	100
17	Snijder, E.J.	87	Australia	269	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	38	Keck School of Medicine of USC	129	Health Professions	62	Antiviral Research	89
18	Lau, S.K.P.	84	Brazil	201	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	37	Leiden University Medical Center - LUMC	122	Materials Science	55	Journal of Clinical Virology	80
19	Lai, M.M.C.	81	Belgium	154	Canadian Institutes of Health Research	36	The Ohio State University	120	Nursing	37	Vaccine	80
20	Denison, M.R.	76	Sweden	147	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science	35	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College	120	Arts and Humanities	25	Virology Journal	79

Table A2
Summary statistics on scholarly publications related to COVID-19.

No.	Authors	Count	Country/Region	Count	Funding sponsors	Count	Institutes	Count	Subject areas	Count	Sources	Count
1	Mahase, E.	20	China	431	National Natural Science Foundation of China	71	The University of Hong Kong	37	Medicine	1029	BMJ Clinical Research Ed	99
2	Rimmer, A.	13	United States	222	National Basic Research Program of China (973 Program)	17	Huazhong University of Science and Technology	33	Immunology and Microbiology	191	Lancet	74
3	Hsueh, P.R.	10	United Kingdom	132	National Institutes of Health	11	Tongji Medical College	31	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	90	Journal of Medical Virology	47
4	Jiang, S.	8	Italy	67	Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities	10	Chinese Academy of Sciences	31	Multidisciplinary	53	JAMA Journal of The American Medical Association	34
5	Memish, Z.A.	8	Canada	48	Chinese Academy of Sciences	9	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College	26	Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceuticals	47	BMJ	31
6	Rodriguez-Morales, A.J.	8	China	45	Wellcome Trust	8	School of Medicine	26	Social Sciences	43	Euro Surveillance Bulletin European Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles European Communicable Disease Bulletin	29
7	Witwanitkit, V.	8	France	42	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	6	Capital Medical University	25	Environmental Science	31	Lancet Infectious Diseases	29
8	Zumla, A.	8	Singapore	41	Science and Technology Major Project of Guangxi Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	6	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	25	Neuroscience	28	Science	25
9	Kupferschmidt, K.	7	Germany	39	Sciences	5	National University of Singapore	24	Health Professions	25	Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease	25
10	Sah, R.	7	Switzerland	37	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences	5	Chinese University of Hong Kong	23	Nursing	21	Journal of Infection	22
11	Baden, L.R.	6	Australia	34	European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership	5	Fudan University	23	Psychology	15	Nature	21
12	Drosten, C.	6	India	31	Health and Medical Research Fund	5	Wuhan University	23	Veterinary	15	New England Journal of Medicine	18
13	Eurosurveillance Editorial Team	6	Taiwan, China	28	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	5	The University of Hong Kong Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine	21	Agricultural and Biological Sciences	14	Emerging Microbes and Infections	16
14	Iacobucci, G.	6	South Korea	26	National Major Science and Technology Projects of China	5	Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University	21	Computer Science	14	Lancet Respiratory Medicine	15
15	Iacobucci, G.	6	Saudi Arabia	25	National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars	5	Zhejiang University	19	Mathematics	13	Journal of Korean Medical Science	13
16	Ippolito, G.	6	Sweden	17	Sanming Project of Medicine in Shenzhen	5	UCL	19	Engineering	12	Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology	11
17	Kim, J.Y.	6	Thailand	17	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	4	University of Oxford	19	Chemistry	9	International Journal of Infectious Diseases	11
18	Morrissey, S.	6	Brazil	16	Canadian Institutes of Health Research	4	Zhejiang University School of Medicine	19	Business, Management and Accounting	5	Journal of Hospital Infection	11
19	Rubin, E.J.	6	Japan	15	China Scholarship Council	4	Ministry of Education China	18	Chemical Engineering	5	Journal of Microbiology Immunology and Infection	11
20	Angeletti, S.	5	The Netherlands	15	Horizon 2020 Framework Programme	4	University of Toronto	17	Dentistry	5	Veterinary Record	11

Table A3
Studies on the safety-related aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

No.	Reference	Safety dimension*	Method of study	Key message/finding	Key recommendations
1	Devaux et al. (2020)	Medical	Preliminary trials	- Encouraging evidence for the effectiveness of chloroquine as COVID-19 treatment	- N.A.
2	Liu et al. (2020a)	Medicine	Limited clinical trials	- Evidence that Hydroxychloroquine, is effective in inhibiting SARS-CoV-2 infection in vitro	- N.A.
3	Chen et al. (2020d)	Medicine	Vaccine strategies related to SARS-CoV	- Reviewing the previous SARS-CoV vaccine developments efforts	- Multiple vaccine strategies need to be advanced quickly and then evaluated for safety and efficacy - Safety studies to mitigate undesired risks will be the biggest time hindrance
4	Cortegiani et al. (2020)	Medicine	Existing medical evidence and ongoing clinical trials	- Reviewing efficacy and safety of chloroquine for COVID-19 treatment	- There is enough evidence to justify clinical trials for chloroquine in patients with COVID-19 - Urgent need for safety data and data from clinical trials - Discussing pathogen inactivation methods in Coronaviruses
5	Chang et al. (2020)	Blood	Relevant publications on previous coronaviruses	- There is a theoretical risk of transmission of coronaviruses through the transfusion of labile blood products	- Outlining key questions in order to determine whether blood safety intervention is needed
6	Dodd and Stramer (2020)	Blood	Relevant publications on previous coronaviruses	- Public health messages are generally complied with even by those who do not trust the government - Evaluating the possibilities of transfusion transmission in relation to COVID-19	
7	Schwartz and Graham (2020)	Pregnancy	Evidence from SARS and other Coronavirus Infections	- Limited experience with Coronavirus infections during pregnancy - Assessing the potential of the 2019-nCoV to cause maternal, fetal and neonatal morbidity	- Recommendations for consideration of pregnant women in the design of clinical trials
8	Chen et al. (2020a)	Pregnancy	Retrospective review of medical records	- Limited data are available for pregnant women with COVID-19 pneumonia - Evaluating clinical characteristics of COVID-19 in pregnancy and the potential for vertical transmission - No neonatal asphyxia observed in newborn babies	- Public health messages are generally complied with even by those who do not trust the government - The similarity between clinical characteristics of COVID-19 pneumonia in pregnant women and those for non-pregnant adults - No evidence of vertical transmission for women in late pregnancy
9	Rasmussen et al. (2020)	Pregnancy	Evidence from similar pathogenic coronaviruses	- Limited data available about coronavirus disease 2019 during pregnancy	- Coronavirus disease 2019 might increase the risk for pregnancy complications - Outlining principles of management of COVID-19 in pregnancy
10	Topalidou et al. (2020)	Pregnancy	Synthesising the scientific literature	- No evidence of in utero transmission observed in severe acute respiratory syndrome or Middle East respiratory syndrome	- Lack of enough scientific evidence on issues surrounding pregnancy and labouring - Evaluating safety and efficacy of different anesthetic regimens for COVID-19 patient during Cesarean delivery
11	Chen et al. (2020b)	Pregnancy, Surgery	Retrospective review of patients' records	- Reviewing clinical and psychological impacts of COVID-19 on perinatal women and their infants - Excessive incidences of hypotension during epidural anesthesia for COVID-19 patients undergoing Cesarean	- Safety recommendations for evaluation and surgery of head and neck for COVID-19 patients
12	Givi et al. (2020)	Surgery	Review of the literature and communication with physicians with firsthand experience of treating COVID-19 patients	- Head and neck surgeons who come in close contact with the upper aerodigestive tract during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures are at high risk of contracting the disease	
13	Kang et al. (2020b)	Pregnancy, Surgery	Medical practice experience in China	- Anesthesia management in cesarean section for patients with coronavirus disease 2019	- Discussing protection of medical staff and psychological intervention for the patients during the operation
14	Fadel et al. (2020)	Occupational	N.A.	- Highlighting the role of companies and businesses in crisis management	- A list of recommendations for companies to decrease the biological and psychological risk to their employees during the epidemic
15	Chen et al. (2020e)	Occupational	Clinical practice in West China Hospital	- Discussing clinical safety measures including patient screening, respiratory precautions and telemedicine consultations	- The importance of having in place policies for infection control in every dermatology clinic
16	Cheung et al. (2020)	Occupational	Clinical practice in Hong Kong	- Aerosol generating procedures is a high-risk activity for healthcare professionals exposing them to contracting the infection	- Outlining an approach for managing staff health risks during aerosol generating procedures
17	Ambigapathy et al. (2020)	Occupational	N.A.	- The importance of the correct user of PPE by the GP's	- The correct use of PPE will help GPs balance between personal safety and appropriate levels of public concern
18	Greenhalgh et al. (2020)	Transport & visit	Evidence from randomised trials	- Evaluating suitability of video consultation and the challenges involved - Overall high patient satisfaction, no difference in disease progression and lower costs associated with video consultations	- The need for revisiting these evaluations for patients with acute symptoms

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Table A3 (continued)

No.	Reference	Safety dimension*	Method of study	Key message/finding	Key recommendations
19	Liew et al. (2020)	Transport & visit	Evidence from influenza pandemic	- Highlighting potential breaches of infection control during episodes of patient transport outside isolation occur - Outlining patient transport issues for COVID-19	- The importance of planning safe patient transport for suspected or confirmed cases - Recommendations for inter-hospital and intra-hospital transfer of patients or suspected cases - The need for implementation of robust plans by the radiology departments to prevent further transmission
20	Kooraki et al. (2020)	Laboratory, Occupational	N.A.	- Reviewing precautionary and safety measures for radiology department personnel to manage patients with known or suspected COVID-19 infections	- Developing a series of pseudo-virus-based neutralisation assays and protocols for SARS-CoV-2 which are safer and can be handled in biosafety level 2 facilities - Recommendations for both producers and consumers on how to mitigate the risk infection through food
21	Nie et al. (2020)	Laboratory	Laboratory tests	- High infectivity and pathogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 pseudo-virus requires that it be handled in biosafety level 3 facilities, and this has hindered the development of anti-viral measures	- Suggestions for regulating wildlife conservation and food safety to prevent human exposure to novel viruses
22	Shariatifar and Molaee-aghaee (2019)	Food	N.A.	- Highlighting the possibility of mass transmission during food packaging and preparedness	- A list of measures by which Medicaid programs can help reduce the spread of the virus and aid the healthcare system in the US
23	Yuan et al. (2020)	Food	Epidemiological evidence related to SARS and COVID-19 outbreaks	- Analysing the association of the SARS and COVID-19 outbreaks with wildlife diet in China	- Provision of adequate PPE, prior training, adequate sleep and nutrition could help mitigate the rate of suicide among doctors and nurses
24	Bachiredddy et al. (2020)	Social	N.A.	- The importance of the Medicaid programs as a public social safety net in the US during the epidemic	- The benefits of maintaining healthcare reserve corps, or utilising the expertise of the military staff to mitigate the workload of clinicians
25	Jun et al. (2020)	Occupational, Mental	Evidence from previous epidemics	- The importance of taking suicide prevention measures among healthcare professionals during the epidemic	- The importance of maintaining shared social identity among healthcare professionals - N.A.
26	Wang et al. (2020a)	Mental	Survey the general public in China	- More than half of respondents rated psychological impact of the outbreak as moderate to severe	- The importance of providing mental support particularly for those who are most exposed to prevent adverse consequences such as suicide
27	Shigemura et al. (2020)	Mental	Evidence from previous pandemics and public emergencies	- Female gender, student status and poor self-rated health associated with higher anxiety, depression and stress levels - Overwhelming and sensational news headlines and images add to public anxiety and fear - Fear of the unknown elevates anxiety in healthy individuals and those with pre-existing mental conditions	- The need for governments to plan to fight against the negative mental consequences of the outbreak
28	Li et al. (2020)	Mental	Analysis of social media feed (A Chinese microblogging website)	- An increase in negative emotions and sensitivity to social risks after the outbreak	- The need to promote strategies to protect women particularly in households with the history of family violence
29	Alves et al. (2020)	Mental	N.A.	- During self-isolation women living in rural areas are at a heightened risk of domestic violence	- The importance of differentiating between loneliness and isolation
30	Van Bavel et al. (2020)	Mental	Evidence from a selection of research topics relevant to pandemics	- Pandemic restrictions tend to aggravate family tensions - Distancing could aggravate feelings of loneliness and cause long-term health consequences - Stress caused by self-isolation could impact on the immune system - Older adults who are at greater risk are also more susceptible to these effects	- The use of a better term such as "physical distancing" rather than "social distancing" - The importance of maintaining social connectivity while keeping physically apart - Cautioning against the passive use of social media
31	Greenberg et al. (2020)	Mental, Occupational	N.A.	- Moral injury can potentially lead to depression, PTSD or even suicide	- Listing several potential mechanisms that can help mitigate the negative impact of moral injury
32	Wang et al. (2020b)	Mental	Evidence from previous outbreaks	- Post-traumatic stress score could be significantly higher in children who were quarantined than children who were not	- Considering the potential impact of prolonged school closure on children mental health - Recommendations to mitigate mental health impact on children at the level of government, parents, schools and communities

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Table A3 (continued)

No.	Reference	Safety dimension*	Method of study	Key message/finding	Key recommendations
33	Ornell et al. (2020)	Mental	Survey of recommendations from WHO and the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the pandemic, fear increases anxiety level of healthy individuals and intensifies the symptoms of those with pre-existing psychiatric disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need to implement public mental health policies along with clinical response strategies, during and after the crisis - A list of mental health recommendations at the level of governments, individuals, social groups and medical facilities
34	Barari et al. (2020)	Mental	Public survey of Italian population sample	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public health messages are generally complied with even by those who do not trust the government - Compliance slightly lower among young adults - The quarantine restrictions have had serious mental impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public communication should focus on how people can cope better with home quarantine - The need for behavioural interventions to help people cope better with the crisis

*Medicine = “medicine, treatment and vaccine safety”, Blood = “blood safety”, Pregnancy = “pregnancy safety”, Surgery = “surgery and anesthetic safety”, Occupational = “occupational safety of healthcare workers”, Transport & visit = “patient transport and visit safety”, Laboratory = “biosafety of laboratories and facilities”, Food = “food safety”, Social = “social public safety”, Mental = “mental/psychological health and domestic safety”.

Appendix B. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2020.104806>.

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