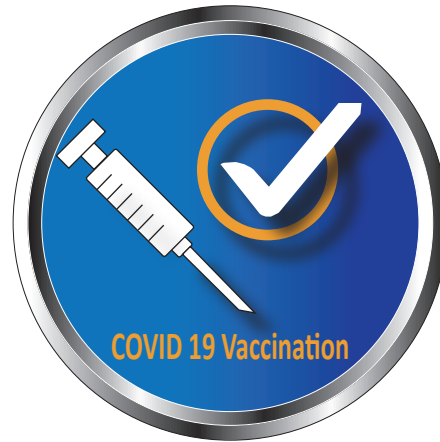


# EDITORIAL VIEW OF THIS ISSUE

In a matter of about one year, ten billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered globally, making it the most extensive vaccination campaign in history [1]. However, this apparent success was coincided with an undeniable counterpart campaign of floating allegations, raising doubt and distributing accusations. Health authorities worldwide aim to immunize at least 70 % of the population to achieve the herd immunity necessary to control the pandemic. Few countries have reached this target; however, many countries are still struggling due to economic, political, or socio-cultural barriers.

Relevant International medical societies agreed to vaccinate people with COVID-19 vaccine, but some controversies exist about the number of doses needed and their interval. Recently some countries [2,3] have approved the booster dose of the vaccine, especially for those vulnerable to the COVID-19 infection or its severity. The big question and hot debate is whether rich countries' success in achieving vertical and horizontal targets of COVID-19 vaccination is enough to curb the pandemic. In this issue, Dr Sanad Al-Balaghi ( See page 2) has raised the need for equity in providing vaccination not on a national level but for an international one. The argument is not philosophical and ethical, but it is scientific and in the inter-



est of even the rich and developed countries. Controlling the pandemic in a few countries and leaving others subjected to the risk would enhance the chance of getting new versions of the virus with potential high-risk features, including making the available vaccines ineffective. Nature stands this time with poor people.

**Editor-in-Chief**  
chiefeditor@iraqinmj.com

## REFERENCES

1. Nature. Freda Krier. Ten billion COVID vaccinations: world hits new milestone. Date January 31 2022. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00285-2>. Accessed on January 31 2022.
2. US Food & Drugs Administration. FDA Authorizes Booster Dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Certain Populations. Released on September 22, 2021. Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-authorizes-booster-dose-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-certain-populations>. Accessed on December 26 2021.
3. GOV.UK. MHRA statement on booster doses of Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines. Published September 9 2021. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-statement-on-booster-doses-of-pfizer-and-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccines>. Accessed on December 25 2021.