TO LONG COVID AND BEYOND!

New diseases don’t come along that often. As I write, almost 5 million people have died of COVID-19 worldwide.1 How fortunate we are in the West to be relatively wealthy, well, and fully jabbed. Yet even in the UK it feels as if normal life has stopped for the well, and fully jabbed. Yet even in the UK it remains opposed to any change in the law on assisted dying.3 I’m not proposing to revisit the well-worn arguments of patient autonomy in terminal suffering, citing well-known agonising cases, versus concerns that the option of PAD could morph into an implied expectation for PAD felt by the vulnerable, or that investment in palliative care may wither in favour of PAD.4 But doctors need to reflect on the way ahead as this issue is raised once more.

This year we have all had cause to reflect on our mortality. As Euripides reminded us, ‘No one can confidently say that they will still be living tomorrow.’ And none of us is immune from illness, be it long COVID, cancer, or whatever. We all need good GPs.

David Misselbrook, Deputy Editor, BJGP

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