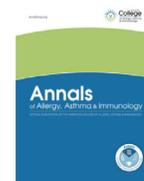




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Editorial

Annals editors on the war in Ukraine

“War... what is it good for? Absolutely nothing...”¹ These lyrics by Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong may have been written on the Vietnam war, but they apply to all conflicts around the world. The editors of the Annals were saddened and disappointed as we saw Ukraine invaded by Russian troops; we have become horrified as we see the indiscriminate destruction and loss of life that has happened since. Therefore, we felt we had to make a statement that our journal does not condone violence of any sort, and we support all avenues that lead to peace.

At the time of this writing, the war is raging, and innocent men, women, and children are being slaughtered in the bombing attacks on Ukrainian cities by the Russian military. Because of the timing of publications, we hope and pray that, by the time this editorial is published in print, peace has been achieved. However, this was not the first and will not be the last time people take up arms to subjugate or destroy others. As medical providers, we are committed to reducing suffering and providing healing. As editors, we are committed to advancing the best science in our field and aiding practitioners to give their patients the best possible clinical care. These 2 commitments are the antithesis of the destruction and hatred of war, and we denounce not just the war in Ukraine, but wars anywhere in the world. Indeed, President John F Kennedy had it right when he said, “Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind.”²

You may ask why we felt it necessary to write this editorial. The short answer is that too often we are silent when injustice occurs. As Dr Martin Luther King, Jr stated, “We must move past indecision to action.”³ In this vein, we wish to add our voice to many others and say, “No. This war is not acceptable.” Russia’s war on Ukraine is inhumane, insufferable, and just plain wrong. No person should ever try to destroy another. We must all stand up for peace and freedom. An attack on any free country is an attack on all free countries and must not be tolerated. Furthermore, this war has widened disparities and previous inequalities not only for those with allergic disease but for all people suffering the atrocities of war. The disruption in medical services may pale in comparison to the horrors experienced by the Ukrainian people, but this disruption will have ongoing impacts on patients, providers, and populations. It is difficult to imagine how our Allergy and Immunology colleagues living in Ukraine or Russia will navigate these uncertain times, but our thoughts and prayers are with them and all victims of this senseless violence.

We stand with the people of Ukraine against this horrible Russian onslaught. We also acknowledge that there are those in Russia who are also suffering violence at the hands of their government. As

editors, we are not able to alter the politics of Russia, but we can encourage you, our readers, to help support the humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine. The American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology leadership has put together a very helpful webpage listing charitable organizations to which you can donate and help Ukraine (<https://college.acaai.org/helping-the-people-of-ukraine/>). Every donation is one more volley in demonstrating that free and peaceful people will not ignore the hatred and destruction of war.

We close by reiterating the lyrics from Whitfield and Barrett, “War... what is it good for? Absolutely nothing...”¹ War is good for nothing, and we must always stand up against these horrendous and terrible acts of violence against anyone. May peace and freedom always win out, and may the medical community continue to work to end all suffering of all people the world over.

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