Heart & Lung: The Journal of Acute and Critical Care announces a virtual issue focused on symptoms and symptom science in the context of heart failure (HF). The purpose of this special journal section will be to publish data-based research and robust systematic reviews about HF symptoms and symptom science to deepen understanding of the mechanisms of HF symptoms in order to develop precision interventions. Heart failure is a major public health burden projected to continue as the population ages. During the past two decades, scientists have developed strong programs of research focused on managing HF symptoms to improve health outcomes. There is now a body of knowledge about the main symptoms experienced by HF patients and their family caregivers and general interventions that improve survival, reduce unnecessary hospitalizations and enhance quality of life. The challenge for the next generation of HF scientists is to build on existing knowledge and develop new symptom science programs focused on these symptoms and on novel, yet-to-be-discovered mechanisms and personalized interventions. Examples of substantive symptom science topics are dyspnea, fatigue, sleep disturbance, cognitive dysfunction, depression and pain. Examples of intervention topics are self-management, medication adherence, family caregiving and palliative care. Cross-cutting topics that we recommend be integrated into HF symptom science papers are clinical phenotypes, omics, digital health technologies and data analytics.

Manuscripts will be published online in the virtual online issue “Symptom Science in Heart Failure” as they are accepted and published in a special section of the print journal. Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Symptom Science Special Editors

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