

Executive Editor

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Two years of living with the pandemic and the COVID-19 virus continues to mutate while the impetus of discovering the needed cure has been comparatively slow. The new normal has made international travel more stressful and economies stagnant but has re-ignited the debates surrounding biowarfare. In this context, one major argument has been regarding the origin of the virus and Dany Shoham and Yossi Kuperwasser provide a comprehensive outlook on the efforts put by the US government to untangle the mystery in their article “The U.S. intelligence community and the roots of the pandemic virus.” Furthermore, Mrinmayee Bhushan presents a proposal for a biosecurity framework in India and DPK Pillay highlights the lessons learned from COVID-19 and India’s resilience during the crisis.

The Winter edition also accounts for the continual progress made in the abolition of CW. Recently, on December 3, 2021, the 26th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the CWC in The Hague concluded. The Member States of OPCW assessed the progress in the implementation of the CWC and marked the path forward. In this regard, Paul Walker writes a very timely article that comprehensively covers the history as well as the way forward in his article, “In Search of a Chemical Weapons-Free World: Three Decades of Abolishing Chemical Weapons.” In addition, Animesh Roul articulates on the concerning Russian behaviour of flouting CWC obligations in his article “Novichok and Murkier case of Navalny poisoning.” Finally, the Kaleidoscope section carries forward “a Biological Security Education, Awareness, and Outreach as Essential Elements of Strengthening the Review of Science and Technology under the BTWC” by Tatyana Novossiolova, Lijun Shang, and Malcolm Dando. This issue also comprises other features like Chemical-Biological News and Book Review. With our readers’ feedback, we wish to publish issues in the future that focuses on a subject of particular concern. Kindly address, contributions and feedback to: cbwmagazineeditor@gmail.com.