

EDITORIAL

The use of the concept of stimuli in psychoneuroimmunological study deserves further discussion. There has, however, been a peer group of scholars that has coined a suggestion that only the terms psychological and psychosocial stressor that can be employed in psychoneuroimmunological study. This is because the definition of psychological stressor itself has not yet been determined, and even it does not exist yet in international publications. However, if we refer to the concept of stimuli-response relationships, it is the stressor, in this sense, that is essentially a stimulus that may cause stress.

In the literature, what we more often find is the term psychological stress, as that suggested by Eric Lindermann and Gerald Caplan. Hans Selye regarded stress as a body response that consists of three (triad) i.e., activation, resistance, and exhaustion. All of these stages present the process of general adaptation syndrome (GAS). Dhabhar-McEwen (2001) presented the concept of stress as stress perception and stress response. Stress perception is cognition of learning process that may induce stress response, such as immunity modulation. It can be assumed that Dhabhar-McEwen essentially tried to adjoin the concept of stress from Eric Lindermann-Gerald Caplan and that from Hans Selye. Stress-perception reflects the concept of stress from Eric Lindermann-Gerald Caplan while stress response reflects the concept from Hans Selye.

We may assume that psychological characteristics are those owned by individuals who may experience stress. Therefore, the term psychological characteristics are more suitable to use together with the term stress to become the term psychological stress as we recently find in international journal.

The question is, what will be the fate of the term psychological stressor itself? Is it correct? Does it deserve further investigation? Is it a new term that requires a different concept? We present in this edition of *Folia Medica Indonesiana* an article that uses the term psychological stressor. We hope that the readers, after reading the article, may have a broader understanding on psychological stressor. The adoption of this term essentially reflects the way science and technology develop themselves through warm and intense, and not infrequently, exhaustive debates. However exhaustive, those debates live in scientific atmosphere, in which the final goal is to disclose the truth, the relative truth.

The Editors