

The Medical Journal of Australia • MJA

MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19: DRUG REPURPOSING; AND LEARNING FROM SINGAPORE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE *Medical Journal of Australia* has today published two more papers on COVID-19 as part of its rapid-review process.

1. Drug repurposing in the era of COVID – a market failure needing leadership and government investment

“While the discovery and development of new drugs remains essential, a ‘new’ drug requires approximately 12-16 years’ processing time and an investment of US\$1-2 billion to achieve regulatory approval. In contrast, repurposing an “old” drug for a new therapeutic use takes on average 6.5 years to obtain approval and an investment of US\$300 million. A combination of both traditional drug development and drug repurposing is therefore prudent if we are to make timely inroads into treating HCoVs more efficiently and deliver a significant impact on human health.”

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/drug-repurposing-era-covid-market-failure-needing-leadership-and-government-investment>

2. From SARS to COVID-19: the Singapore journey

“Having experienced SARS in 2003, Singapore's healthcare system had drawn upon this experience to enhance its pandemic preparedness response. The emergence of COVID-19 has now put these preparations to the test. We describe the evolution of Singapore's outbreak response from the SARS crisis in 2003 to the current COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on public health measures as well as the clinical management and workflows at the National Center for Infectious Diseases, Singapore.”

<https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2020/sars-covid-19-singapore-journey>

Both articles are online now and are open access. No log-in is required to view these articles.

Please remember to credit *The MJA*.

The *Medical Journal of Australia* is a publication of the Australian Medical Association.

The statements or opinions that are expressed in the MJA reflect the views of the authors and do not represent the official policy of the AMA or the MJA unless that is so stated.