CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline: 15 June 2019

This is a call for abstracts proposing research articles for a supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS), titled “Men & HIV”, to be published in July 2020 in conjunction with the 23rd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2020).

The editors invite submissions on any aspect of engaging men across the HIV care continuum. While papers reporting original research are especially sought, commentaries, reviews and other discursive articles will also be considered for this supplement (see Submissions below for further details).

BACKGROUND

There is growing recognition that engaging men will be key to reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets for HIV. In 2017, UNAIDS released the report “Blind Spot: Reaching out to men and boys” acknowledging that men are disproportionately less likely than women to know their HIV status, less likely to access and adhere to HIV treatment and more likely to die as a result of AIDS-related illnesses. The PEPFAR Strategy for Accelerating HIV/AIDS Epidemic Control (2017-2020) emphasizes the need for an “acceleration of optimized HIV testing and treatment strategies particularly to reach men under age 35”. At AIDS 2018, the MenStar Coalition was launched with a pledge for USD$1.2 billion in an effort to seek new and innovative ways to engage young men and boys to end the AIDS epidemic.

Within the HIV response, a range of individuals and organizations have been working to increase men’s access and linkage to HIV services. The aim of the JIAS supplement is to draw attention to the formative assessment work done on determining why men are less likely to access HIV services and the interventions and programmatic evaluations that have been designed and conducted to engage men. It will build on the science shared at the forthcoming *Men & HIV Forum* held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 20 July ahead of the 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2019).

This supplement of JIAS seeks to expand the evidence base on how to engage men across the HIV care cascade, with a specific interest in health service interventions to improve both HIV-related and broader health outcomes. Science presented in the supplement will enable ministries of health, funders, policymakers and implementers to better develop HIV policies and implementation plans to address and integrate the health needs of men.
SUBMISSIONS

The scope of this call is global and we strongly encourage submissions from researchers in low- and middle-income countries. All article categories will be considered (for example, Research, Short report, Review, Debate, Commentary, and Viewpoint), with a particular emphasis placed on operational research and implementation science.

Submiters may include research conducted in any setting (for example, geographic location, patient population, health sector), and may include:

- Descriptions and evaluations of:
  - Interventions to increase male engagement across the HIV care continuum, inclusive of prevention, testing, treatment and adherence
  - Interventions to increase male engagement to improve HIV and other health outcomes
  - Interventions to increase male engagement to improve HIV and gender equality outcomes
- Cost-effectiveness and efficiency analyses describing the resources required for these interventions
- Qualitative data from clients and communities on their needs and expectations, values and preferences for service delivery to engage men
- Policy reviews, from both high-income and low- and middle-income settings, including policy from national, regional and global actors in the HIV and health response.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Initial contributions should be in the form of manuscript abstracts (Headings: Introduction, Methods, Results and discussion, Conclusions; Word limit: 350 words) and specify the proposed manuscript category (Research, Short report, Review, Debate, Commentary, Letter to the Editor, Viewpoint).
- Authors are welcome to make initial enquiries about potential papers by emailing dsd@iasociety.org.
- Abstracts should be emailed to dsd@iasociety.org with the subject line (Men & HIV JIAS).
- The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 June 2019.

ARTICLE SELECTION PROCESS

- Initial submissions will be reviewed by the Guest Editors.
- All abstract submitters will be notified about the outcome of their submission for the supplement by 15 July 2019.
- The deadline for the submission of full manuscripts for selected articles is 20 September 2019. These manuscripts must be written in English and conform to the journal style and format for each manuscript category (see Author Guidelines).
- Invitation and submission do not guarantee publication. Only articles whose authors are invited after the initial editors’ review will be considered for publication in the supplement. All editorial decisions regarding publication in JIAS will be based on the outcome of a peer review process.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 15 June 2019: Abstract submission closes
- 15 July 2019: Authors notified of the outcome of their abstract submission
- 20 September 2019: Submission of invited articles to JIAS
- July 2020: Publication and launch of the supplement at AIDS 2020