

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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**Deadline: 30 July 2021**

This is a call for abstracts proposing research articles for a supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS), titled "**HIV and Transgender Populations**", to be published in October 2022.

The editors invite submissions on HIV among transgender populations. While papers reporting original research are especially sought, commentaries, reviews, and viewpoints also will be considered for this supplement (see Submissions below for further details).

### GUEST EDITORS:

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## BACKGROUND

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Transgender people face a disproportionate burden of HIV infection, globally, with estimates as high as 49% among transgender women and 8% among transgender men [1, 2], while global HIV data on gender nonbinary populations are notably absent. Widespread transphobia, stigma, and discrimination perpetrated against gender diverse people place transgender populations at substantial risk for structural drivers of HIV vulnerability and limit access to high impact HIV prevention and care services. Where data are available, they suggest that transgender people are less likely to get HIV testing, take and adhere to pre-exposure prophylaxis, and maintain viral suppression than other populations [3]. Research on cisgender partners of transgender people is quite limited. The few published studies indicate that cisgender men with transgender sexual partners also face elevated HIV vulnerability, and more research is needed [4].

Given the disproportionate impact of HIV on transgender populations, it is urgent to not only document the burden of HIV but also to identify and test acceptable, feasible, and effective interventions that reduce HIV vulnerability, increase HIV testing, and improve engagement in HIV prevention and treatment. Historically, data on HIV among transgender people have been collected in studies focused on cisgender men who have sex with men. For this special issue, we are particularly interested in research that has been designed to focus specifically on transgender populations, and in contexts with persistent major knowledge gaps.

## SUBMISSIONS

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The scope of this call is global, and we strongly encourage submissions from researchers in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where published data are scant. Research, Short report, Review, Commentary and Viewpoint articles will be considered, with a particular emphasis on original research.

We strongly encourage submissions by transgender authors. In addition, we encourage submissions addressing a range of transgender identities—including trans masculine, trans feminine, and nonbinary gender identities—as well as submissions about young people and partners of trans individuals. We especially encourage submissions on HIV among transgender men who have sex with men. Studies using qualitative and quantitative data are preferred. Submission topics may include but are not limited to:

- HIV clinical and prevention issues for trans people (e.g., HIV drug interactions with gender-affirming medical interventions; integration of gender-affirming medical interventions and HIV care services, mental health care and other service integration needs; substance use)
- Epidemiological and behavioral data addressing HIV risk and prevalence among trans people in countries and regions with little published research (e.g., sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia/ Eastern Europe)
- Research and practice addressing HIV-related social and structural issues among trans people, including but not limited to issues such as marginalization and stigmatization, isolation, depression, vulnerability to violence, agency-deprivation, and inadequate standards of care

- Evaluations of service delivery and community-based interventions to improve engagement in the HIV service cascade by trans people
- Field-based policy and programmatic case studies of HIV prevention, care, and treatment efforts for trans people, especially those meaningfully engaging or led by trans people

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION PROCESS

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- Initial contributions should be in the form of abstracts structured according to the headings of the selected article category (Word limit: 350 words, see [Author Guidelines](#)) and specify the proposed manuscript category (Research, Short report, Review, Commentary, Viewpoint).
- Abstracts should be emailed to [tonia\\_poteat@med.unc.edu](mailto:tonia_poteat@med.unc.edu) with the subject line: "JIAS supplement: HIV and Transgender Populations"
- The deadline for submission of abstracts is **30 July 2021**.

## ARTICLE SELECTION PROCESS

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- 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 **13 August 2021**,
- Selected submissions will be invited to submit a full draft manuscript to the Guest Editors for feedback by **15 October 2021**. Full manuscripts must be written in English and strictly conform to the journal style and format for each manuscript category, including word counts and numbers of authors (see [Author Guidelines](#)).
- The deadline for the submission of final manuscripts to JIAS is **7 January 2022**.
- The journal holds supplements to the same standards as other issues. Specifically, all manuscripts under consideration for inclusion in a supplement must adhere to the journal's standards with regards to overall quality, types of articles, and types of content within the articles.
- Only manuscripts whose authors are invited after the initial editors' review will be considered for inclusion in the supplement. However, invitation and submission are no guarantee of publication. Each submitted manuscript will undergo editorial appraisal and peer review based on its individual merits. Manuscripts that do not meet the journal's standards will be rejected.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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**30 July 2021:** Abstract submission closes

**13 August 2021:** Authors notified of the outcome of their abstract submission

**15 October 2021:** Submission of full draft manuscripts to the Guest Editors for feedback

**7 January 2022:** Submission of final manuscripts to JIAS

**October 2022:** Publication and launch of the Supplement

## REFERENCES

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1. Poteat T, Scheim A, Xavier J, Reisner S, Baral S. Global Epidemiology of HIV Infection and Related Syndemics Affecting Transgender People. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2016;72 Suppl 3:S210-219.
2. Van Gerwen OT, Jani A, Long DM, Austin EL, Musgrove K, Muzny CA. Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Transgender Persons: A Systematic Review. *Transgend Health*. 2020 Jun 8;5(2):90-103. doi: 10.1089/trgh.2019.0053. PMID: 32656353; PMCID: PMC7347015.
3. Vaites Fontanari AM, Zanella GI, Feijó M, Churchill S, Rodrigues Lobato MI, Costa AB. HIV-related care for transgender people: A systematic review of studies from around the world. *Soc Sci Med*. 2019 Jun;230:280-294. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.03.016. Epub 2019 Apr 28. PMID: 31035207.
4. Poteat T, Malik M, Wirtz AL, Cooney EE, Reisner S. Understanding HIV risk and vulnerability among cisgender men with transgender partners. *Lancet HIV*. 2020 Mar;7(3):e201-e208. doi: 10.1016/S2352-3018(19)30346-7. Epub 2020 Feb 4. PMID: 32032535.