

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline: 15 May 2023

This is a call for abstracts proposing research articles for a Supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS), titled "**Implementation research and the HIV response: Taking stock and charting the way forward**," to be launched in May 2024. 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).

GUEST EDITORS:

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BACKGROUND

Progress against the HIV pandemic has been undeniable, but we have fallen short of our hopes. HIV has been at the top of the health agenda over the past 20 years, commanding unprecedented political will and considerable resources. Yet at the same time, even with highly efficacious interventions, overall progress has not met targets. Over 1.5 million new infections occur each year, which is a million more than the UNAIDS 2020 targets of 500,000. Likewise, between 500,000 and 1 million deaths due to HIV still occur each year, despite the fact that there are simple, well-tolerated therapies that are or can be made available in even the poorest regions of the world. Looking to the future, the potential for further progress is daunting. Greater investments will be needed to engage those who remain unreached by today's programmes, but the aftermath of the onset of the COVID epidemic and global economic uncertainties create formidable headwinds.

Can wider, more systematic utilization of implementation science get us across the long last mile in the HIV response? The promise of implementation science is to provide valid, rigorous, and generalizable insights about how to use our interventions with greater reach, equity, sustainability, and efficiency. But to realize this promise, the HIV community must continue to embrace, adapt, and apply ideas from implementation science in our research. To bend the curve, we must use new ways of conducting science. This includes conceptualizing implementation strategies using shared standards; measuring implementation outcomes; and applying a range of theoretical approaches and designs that address implementation.

As a collection of articles, this Supplement seeks to enhance understanding of implementation science, in the hopes of advancing the HIV response.

SUBMISSIONS

The scope of this call is global, and submissions may include research conducted in any setting (e.g., geographic location, population, age, health sector), encompassing, but not limited to, the following:

- Strategies to identify undiagnosed and unidentified individuals living with HIV in all age groups and populations
- Approaches and strategies for retention and re-engagement in care and prevention and treatment services
- Innovative approaches to reach and retain underserved populations in care
- Implementation of novel, injectable antiretroviral medications for prevention and treatment
- Adoption at the policy level or use at the community level of emerging prevention technologies
- Implementation of treatment-as-prevention
- Acceptability and implementation of HIV cure therapies, including functional cure
- Understanding the successes and shortcomings of differentiated service delivery approaches
- Use of non-traditional service delivery mechanisms in the community (e.g., traditional healers, community health workers) and task shifting and sharing
- Integration of evidence-based management of mental health and other non-communicable diseases, and other comorbid infectious diseases (e.g., hepatitis C, hepatitis B, tuberculosis) into HIV programming

- Approaches that make use of the concept of patient-centeredness in strategies to improve HIV service delivery

Methodological areas of interest include:

- Use of geospatial and sociometric methods to assess reach and segmentation of strategies and interventions
- End-user engaged, or crowd-sourced approaches to implementation, in particular those seeking to enhance equitable public health practice
- Multi-level strategies for implementation
- Adaptive interventions or strategies targeted at patients, providers, organizations or systems
- Cost-effectiveness and decision analysis methods
- Research embedded within, or led by, implementing organizations (e.g., health authorities, community-based organizations)
- Novel mechanisms to influence behavior using economic perspectives, including behavioral economic constructs

Importantly, implementation science appropriate for this Supplement would be research that produces scientifically based insights that can advance implementation of the HIV response. In general, emphasis will be placed on research that is co-produced with end-users, embedded within implementing systems, makes use of common terms shared in the field, and addresses equity and justice. However, a broad approach will be taken to what “counts” as implementation science, eschewing boundaries based on terminology, jargon, or the use of a limited number of frameworks. The intent of the Supplement is to showcase the diversity of approaches and issues relevant to the HIV response today.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submissions in the categories of Research, Short Report, Review, Debate, Commentary, and Field Notes will be accepted. High priority will be placed on submissions from authors reporting on original research.

- Initial contributions should be in the form of abstracts, written in English and structured according to the headings of the selected article category (word limit: 350 words, see [Author Guidelines](#)), and specify the proposed manuscript category (e.g. Research, Short Report, Review, Debate, Commentary).
- Authors are welcome to make initial enquiries about potential submissions by emailing the Guest Editors Elvin Geng (elvin.geng@wustl.edu), Eleanor Namusoke Magongo (eleannormagongo@gmail.com) or Bohdan Nosyk (bohdan_nosyk@sfu.ca).
- Abstracts should be emailed to Anne Trolard with the subject line: “JIAS Supplement: Imp Sci” to JIAS2023IS@gmail.com.
- The deadline for submission of abstracts is **15 May 2023**.

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 **30 May 2023**, and selected authors will be invited to submit their manuscript to the journal.
- The deadline for the submission of full manuscripts to JIAS for selected articles is **31 August 2023**. Only manuscripts invited by the Guest Editors will be considered for inclusion in the Supplement.
- Manuscripts must be written in English and conform to the journal style and format for each manuscript category. Basic specifications, as stipulated in the [Author Guidelines](#), including word counts and numbers of authors must be adhered to.
- Invitation and submission do not guarantee publication. Each invited manuscript will undergo editorial appraisal and peer review based on its individual merits. Only articles that are accepted after peer review will be published in the Supplement. Manuscripts that do not meet the journal’s standards will be rejected.
- 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

15 May 2023: Abstract submission closes

30 May 2023: Authors notified of the outcome of their submission

31 August 2023: Submission of invited manuscripts to JIAS

May 2024: Publication of the Supplement