

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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**Deadline: 30 September 2022**

This is a call for abstracts proposing research articles for a Supplement of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS), titled **"Understanding Challenges and Optimizing Outcomes of Children with Perinatal HIV Exposure,"** to be published in November 2023, and sponsored by the Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER), a programme of IAS – the International AIDS Society.

The Editors invite submissions that include children living with HIV and those with perinatal exposure to HIV who remain uninfected. While papers reporting original research are especially sought, a range of articles will be considered for this Supplement (see below for further details).

## BACKGROUND

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In 2020, UNAIDS estimated that there were 1.7 million children living with HIV globally and nearly 16 million children with perinatal HIV exposure who remained HIV uninfected. Ninety percent of these children reside in sub-Saharan Africa; in South Africa, Eswatini, Botswana, and Lesotho over 20% of all infants have perinatal HIV exposure. Despite remarkable progress in reducing vertical HIV transmission, disparity remains in many outcomes for children being raised in households affected by HIV. Uncertainties remain regarding the magnitude of these disparities, their underlying mechanisms, and discerning appropriate interventions to optimize the life course trajectory of this large population. Public health policies in the maturing HIV epidemic must shift from a focus on preventing HIV acquisition to a more holistic approach that includes supporting children at highest risk of poor life course outcomes. Failure to support children in HIV affected households to thrive to their fullest potential jeopardizes the future human capital of countries with the highest burden of HIV.

The way forward requires consensus on rigorous research methodologies, including harmonizing practices around the data collection to facilitate data pooling and analysis, ethical considerations of parental disclosure to affected children, and advocacy for children affected by HIV. Findings from observational studies and clinical trials should 1) inform bench research to identify mechanistic pathways for observed disparities; 2) highlight practical interventions; 3) be designed to inform health and educational policies and programming, and 4) disseminated to caregivers and parents of children affected by HIV.

## 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. We will consider original research, Short Report, Review, Debate, and Commentary contributions. Data disaggregation by sex, gender, and age is advised in accordance with [JIAS standards](#). Submissions may include research conducted in varied settings (e.g., geographic location, health sector, age group), encompassing, but not limited to, the following:

- Epidemiologic data on health and/or developmental disparities between populations of children/adolescents living with HIV and/or children/adolescents with perinatal exposure to HIV who remain uninfected compared to children born to HIV free women;
- Socioeconomic disparities contributing to poor health or academic achievement among children/adolescents affected by HIV;
- Ethical issues and/or programming to support disclosure of parental HIV status to children/adolescents affected by HIV;

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- Quantification of structural barriers and/or discriminatory practices that contribute to disparate health and well-being among children/adolescents in households affected by HIV compared to HIV-free households;
- Tested interventions to reduce disparities in health or well-being of children/adolescents living with HIV, or those with perinatal exposure to HIV who have remained uninfected compared to children born into HIV free households;
- Epidemiologic and statistical approaches to minimize misclassification and ensure robust research findings in the conduct of studies involving children/adolescents affected by HIV;
- Community perspectives on approaches to support parents in households affected by HIV in the identification of children/adolescents at risk for poor health outcomes;
- Targeted antenatal and postnatal parenting interventions for parents of children with perinatal HIV exposure to promote nurturing care and the identification of delayed development;
- Interventions promoting the integration of routine surveillance in the health and education sectors to identify children/adolescents at risk and inform appropriate interventions for optimal developmental outcomes.

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION PROCESS

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- Initial contributions should be in the form of abstracts written in English with specification of the proposed article type (i.e., Research, Short Report, Review, Debate, Commentary).
- Authors are welcome to make initial enquiries about potential submissions by emailing [cipher@iasociety.org](mailto:cipher@iasociety.org).
- Abstracts should be emailed to [cipher@iasociety.org](mailto:cipher@iasociety.org) with the subject line: "JIAS Supplement: Children Affected by HIV".
- The deadline for submission of abstracts is **30 September 2022**. Invited full papers will be due by **25 January 2023**.

## ARTICLE SELECTION PROCESS

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- Initial abstract submissions will be reviewed by the Guest Editors.
- All abstract submitters will be notified about the outcome of their submission for the Supplement by **10 October 2022**.
- The deadline for the submission of full manuscripts to JIAS for invited articles is **25 January 2023**. Only manuscripts invited by the Guest Editors will be considered for inclusion in the special issue.
- Manuscripts must be written in English and conform to the journal style and format for each manuscript category. This includes adhering to the journal's standards with regards to overall quality, types of articles, and types of content within the articles. Basic specifications (e.g. word counts) must be followed (see [Author Guidelines](#)).
- Invitation and submission do not guarantee publication. The journal holds Supplements to the same standards as other issues. Each invited manuscript will undergo editorial appraisal and peer review 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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**30 September 2022:** Abstract submission closes

**10 October 2022:** Authors notified of the outcome of their abstract submission

**25 January 2023:** Submission of invited manuscripts to JIAS

**November 2023:** Publication and launch of the Supplement