

Health Literacy: A Special Issue for the Journal *Public Health*

Guest Editors:

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We are pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue on Health Literacy for *Public Health*.

Public Health is an international, multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal. It publishes original research papers, reviews (up to 3000 words in length), commentary and short reports (up to 1500 words) on all aspects of the science, philosophy and practice of public health. It is aimed at all public health practitioners and researchers, and those who manage and deliver public health services and systems. It is also of interest to anyone involved in the provision of public health programmes, the care of populations or communities and those who contribute to public health systems in any way.

For the past three decades, the study of health literacy has evolved from a research topic to develop itself as a discipline. The relationship between low levels of health literacy and poor health has been studied in depth. Health literacy has progressively been recognised as a social determinant of health, an asset for improving health outcomes in individuals and communities, and a basic asset-based human right for global citizens. Looking forward to the future of health literacy as a fruitful area of study for researchers, an opportunity for strengths-based health promotion by practitioners and organisations, and as a community asset supporting collective empowerment and sustainable development, old challenges remain and new ones are emerging. In the digital age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation and blockchain technology, the need for development of digital health literacy for citizens is immense. People of all ages are not immune from the infodemic where disinformation is disseminated both deliberately and inadvertently. Coupled with the daunting climate change crisis and the post-COVID-19 'new normal', the future of health literacy is both critical and promising.

This special issue takes a proactive approach to review what has been collectively achieved in health literacy research in the past decades as well as to provide research directions for the future of health literacy with a public health perspective. We invite scholarly discussions with reflection on achievements and for the next steps of the global health literacy community. We welcome all types of articles in this special issue,

including original articles, reviews, short communications (in all forms of studies including, but not limited, to longitudinal studies, community-based randomised trials or implementation studies) and commentary.

We are keen to receive high quality articles that cover a wide range of health literacy research areas across the globe with a particular emphasis on their public health perspectives. Quality interventional studies in developing countries or programmes conducted in resource-restricted settings are particularly welcome. Examples that may be of interest to our health literacy and public health audience may comprise:

- How health literacy is promoted and recognised in the age of Artificial Intelligence, the post-COVID-19 era, the sea of health misinformation, and the climate change crisis
- Evaluation of and implications for health literacy adoption in health-related policies within and across settings
- Impacts of improving health literacy on tackling health inequities and health inequalities
- Role of health literacy in sustainable development and as a social determinant of health
- Public health education on health literacy (including the pedagogy of teaching health literacy in the curricula of health professions and adoption of health literacy in basic literacy and numeracy education)
- Evolution and future development of the definitions of health literacy
- Development and application of measurement tools of various domains of health literacy with intercultural adaptations (including critical health literacy)
- Evaluation of national, local or community health literacy programmes/initiatives
- Interventional studies (including community trials in resource-restricted settings)
- Health literacy in a collective or social context

Further information about submission requirements can be found at: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/public-health>. Authors should select the ‘VSI: Health Literacy’ article type when uploading their article. If you have any other questions relating to this call for papers, please email the Editorial Office: publichealth@rsph.org.uk.

The deadline for submission to this special issue is 31 December 2024.