

A JPAH Special Issue Call for Papers

“Leveraging Technology to Revolutionize Physical Activity Guidelines, Surveillance, and Interventions”

Technology is becoming ever more engrained in everyday life on a global level. Smart and wearable devices continue to evolve and offer new opportunities to monitor and change movement behaviours. Physical activity patterns can now be measured more precisely, at a more granular level, and for longer periods of time, allowing for stronger data-driven insights into the relationships with health outcomes.

Furthermore, effective behavior change techniques can be more easily delivered in engaging and attractive ways and on a scale that was, until recently, unimaginable.

But with these opportunities come important challenges, such as data privacy and security, data harmonization and processing methods, use of artificial intelligence (AI), digital disparities, and sustaining physical activity behavior change on a population level. Furthermore, the impact innovations in technology will have on physical activity guidelines and surveillance systems is only just emerging.¹ Critical discussions are needed on how to move forward in this space, knowing that technology will only become more prevalent globally and that no one should be left behind. We must harness its potential to impact positive change for all.

In alignment with the [10th Congress of the International Society for Physical Activity and Health](#), *Journal of Physical Activity & Health* (JPAH) Senior Associate Editor, Jacqueline Mair, alongside Assistant Professor and JPAH Editorial Board member, Elroy Aguiar, are announcing a Call for Papers for a Special Issue titled “*Leveraging Technology to Revolutionize Physical Activity Surveillance and Interventions*”. As the title suggests, the focus of this special issue asks us to look into the future of our digital world and consider where we could go, and how we might get there. We expect diverse original research submissions surrounding themes related to how innovations in technology will impact physical activity on a global level, including:

- a. Innovations in physical activity measurement
- b. Impact on guidelines and surveillance

- c. Scalable, engaging digital interventions
- d. Data-driven insights into physical activity behavior
- e. Sustaining behavioural change
- f. Addressing the digital divide
- g. Cost-effective and sustainable digital solutions.

Important Information

Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be pre-screened by Drs. Mair and Aguiar prior to article submission (see below, "Submission guidelines"). The EOI must include the manuscript title, abstract, aims, methods, and proposed author team, and should not exceed 500 words. Approved submissions will then go through masked peer reviewed, as usual.

Accepted articles will be published online Ahead of Press prior to final publication in the Special Issue. *Accepted articles will be published free access (freely available to non-subscribers) for the first six months of publication.* In addition, Creative Commons open access and permanent free access publication is available for a charge, with select discounts available for [ISPAH members](#).

Key Dates

Deadline for Expression of Interest: November 30, 2024

Deadline for manuscript submission: February 28, 2025

Expected final publication: July/August 2025 (with prior Ahead of Print publication)

Submission Guidelines

Expressions of Interest should be emailed to *both* Jacqueline Mair (Jacqueline.mair@sec.ethz.ch) and Elroy Aguiar (ejaguiar@ua.edu) by November 30, 2024. If approved, submissions should be prepared according to the [author instructions](#) and submitted via the [journal submission page](#) by February 28, 2025. *Please note in the cover letter that the submission is for the special issue and has prior approval by the Editors.*

Publication Bias

JPAH welcomes physical activity research from all cultures, countries, and climates and encourages our editorial leadership, reviewers, authors, and readers to help reduce publication bias based on where we live, work, and play. [Read our position statement](#) on publication bias related to research from Majority World (i.e., Global South, low-to-middle income) countries.

References

1. Mair JL, Aguiar EJ, Stamatakis E, Edney SM. Moving toward the inclusion of step-based metrics in physical activity guidelines and surveillance. *J Phys Act Health*. 2023;20(7):575-577. <https://doi.org/10.1123/jpah.2023-0180>