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Call for Papers

Roadmap to a Healthier and More Equitable Hawai'i: Solutions to Root Causes at the Intersections of Chronic Disease and Covid-19

Special Issue of the *Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare*

As policy-makers, researchers, and news media have revealed, the Covid-19 pandemic highlights fractures in our health systems, social structures, and public policy. Those groups most at risk of infection, hospitalization, and death from Covid-19 are often those most vulnerable in our society: older adults, racial/ethnic minorities, people with limited incomes, those experiencing food insecurity and crowded housing, *etc.* All of these groups experience more chronic conditions than the general population. For some groups including Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, and those without insurance or using Medicaid, chronic conditions often occur earlier in life, are more severe, and are less well managed.

Chronic conditions are one of the most pronounced risk factors for poor outcomes, if infected with Covid-19. Recent research from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that three-quarters of decedents of Covid-19 had an underlying medical condition. The three most common conditions were cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease, which were present in 60%, 40%, and 21%, respectively, of deaths due to Covid-19. These conditions, especially diabetes, were even more common among young and working age adults who succumbed to the virus.

Many of the underlying determinants for Covid-19 and chronic conditions are the same and these determinants reflect social marginalization and power differentials. Thus, addressing these underlying determinants would reduce susceptibility to Covid-19, hospitalization, and death due to the virus, as well as the health and economic burdens of chronic conditions. Even in the context of Covid-19, chronic conditions remain the leading causes of death and disability in our state and nationally.

Fresh perspectives and innovative solutions are clearly needed to address the underlying inequities and injustices that Covid-19 has so clearly illuminated. It is time for transformative change that protects all of our community and in doing so, assures greater resilience to future health threats. This special issue seeks contributions offering diverse perspectives, proposals, and solutions for Hawai'i that aim to address and change the underlying sources of illness and inequity in our communities, with a specific focus on chronic disease in the context of Covid-19. In particular, we are looking for submissions that make contributions towards systems, environmental, and policy changes, as well as those that discuss or target root causes of health disparities in chronic disease.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Point of Contact:

- **Catherine Pirkle;**
cmpirkle@hawaii.edu;
(808) 726-6202

Guest Editors:

- **Catherine Pirkle:**
Associate Professor,
Office of Public Health
Studies, University of
Hawai'i at Mānoa
- **Lola Irvin:** Division
Chief, Chronic Disease
and Health Promotion
Division, Hawai'i
Department of Health
- **Jessica Yamauchi:**
Executive Director,
Hawai'i Public Health
Institute
- **Micah Kane:** President
and CEO, Hawaii
Community Foundation

DEADLINES

- **September 28, 2020:**
Letter of Intent Due Date
- **January 8, 2021:**
Manuscripts Due
- **March 12, 2021:**
Notification of
Acceptance
- **July 2021:** Publication of
Special Issue



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Types of Paper

We are looking for all types of articles, including original articles, reviews, viewpoints, and editorials. Please see the journal's instructions to authors for more information on the types of articles accepted by the *Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare*.

Letter of Intent Format and Guidelines

To be considered for the Special Issue, please send an unstructured 350-word, or less, abstract to chroniccondCovid@gmail.com by midnight, September 28, 2020.

Be sure to include the proposed article title, as well as a complete list of all authors and affiliations. Finally, make sure to indicate the type of paper you are submitting: original research, review, point/counterpoint article, editorial, or other category. For a full list of article categories, please consult the website of the *Hawai'i Journal of Health and Social Welfare*: <https://hawaiijournalhealth.org/index.html>.

Journal editors will review the submissions for their relevance to the call for papers, and the quality of the scholarship. If selected, authors will be asked to submit a full manuscript by January 8, 2021. Being invited to submit a paper is not a guarantee of eventual publication.

