



Special Issue Call for Papers

Promoting Relational Health in Global Contexts: Multilevel Prevention Across Family, School, and Community Systems

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September 21, 2026—The journal *Prevention Science* (ISSN: 1389-4986) is soliciting letters of intent for manuscripts to be considered for a forthcoming special issue: **“Promoting Relational Health in Global Contexts: Multilevel Prevention Across Family, School, and Community Systems.”**

Relational health refers to the everyday relationships in an individual’s social ecology that meet universal needs for safety, belonging, and identity and that support health and well-being across the lifecourse (Olsson et al., 2026, Bronfenbrenner, 1979; Lerner & Overton, 2008). Relational health problems—manifesting as family stress, disrupted caregiving, emotional dysregulation, interpersonal aggression, and other harms—remain among the most preventable yet persistent public health challenges worldwide. Yet, there is little discussion in the prevention field about interventions that can support healthy relationships across the lifespan, particularly among marginalized and underresourced populations.

Evidence synthesized in recent scoping reviews demonstrates that universal interventions delivered from early childhood through young adulthood can strengthen relational processes within families, schools, peer groups, and communities, with implications not only for immediate developmental outcomes but also for the next generation (Allen et al., 2026). Yet much of the existing evidence base has been generated in high-income Western countries and has focused primarily on individual- or family-level interventions. Far less is known about how relational health can be promoted through multilevel interventions that engage schools, communities, service systems, and policy environments, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), non-Western settings, and underserved populations. As prevention science increasingly embraces systems-oriented approaches to complex social challenges, there is a pressing need to understand how relational health interventions can be adapted, implemented, evaluated, and scaled across diverse cultural and institutional contexts.

Catherine P. Bradshaw, Ph.D., *Editor, Prevention Science Journal*

Associate Editors: Katrina J. Debnam · Andy Garbacz · Sharon Lambert · Stephen S. Leff · Antonio Morgan-Lopez · Rashelle Musci · Hanno Petras · Emily Tanner-Smith



This special issue responds to the Society for Prevention Research's growing emphasis on multilevel prevention and systems change by advancing a global dialogue on how multilevel, relational health promoting interventions can be designed, evaluated, and scaled to support healthy development, equity, and intergenerational well-being across diverse global contexts. We seek contributions that examine how interventions strengthen relationships and relational processes across multiple levels of the social ecology and how these interventions contribute to healthy development, resilience, equity, and intergenerational well-being. We are particularly interested in research conducted in LMICs, non-Western settings, immigrant and refugee populations, and cross-national comparative contexts.

We welcome empirical studies, implementation and dissemination research, methodological contributions, and comparative analyses that advance knowledge regarding the promotion of relational health. Topics of interest include but are not limited to (a) family- and caregiver-focused interventions that strengthen parent-child relationships, family functioning, (co)parenting, and caregiving practices; (b) school-based interventions that promote positive peer relationships, social-emotional development, school connectedness, and supportive school climates; (c) community-based and multisector initiatives that strengthen social cohesion, collective efficacy, and community well-being; (d) prevention strategies addressing relationally mediated harms, including child maltreatment, bullying, interpersonal violence, aggression, and gender-based violence; (e) interventions that strengthen linkages across systems, including family-school-community partnerships and integrated service delivery models; (f) economic, social protection, health, education, and policy interventions that indirectly influence relational health through broader ecological pathways; (g) research examining cultural adaptation, implementation, sustainability, and scale-up of relational health interventions across diverse settings; (f) comparative and cross-national studies that illuminate contextual influences on intervention effectiveness and transferability; and (g) methodological innovations for evaluating complex, multilevel, and system-embedded interventions. This special issue was inspired in part by two Society for Prevention Research invited symposia: the 2025 Annual Meeting ECNP Invited Symposium on "Prevention Research Across International Contexts" and the 2026 Annual Meeting DNC Invited Symposium on "Prevention Science for Immigrant and Refugee Communities."

Authors interested in contributing a manuscript to this special issue are asked to submit a letter of intent (LOI) that includes (a) the tentative title; (b) a brief description of the proposed manuscript (maximum 500 words); (c) a brief explanation of how the proposed manuscript contributes to the aims of the special issue; and (d) author names and affiliations and contact information for the corresponding author. The guest editors will review all LOIs for fit with the special issue and will invite a diverse collection of papers that advance understanding of relational health promotion across global contexts. **Submit**

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the LOI as a PDF to saltanat.childress@uta.edu by **December 31, 2026**. Submissions will be reviewed by February 15, 2027; selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts through the *Prevention Science* online portal by **April 30, 2027**. Manuscripts will undergo full peer review following standard Prevention Science review guidelines.

Questions regarding the Special Issue can be directed to Saltanat Childress (saltanat.childress@uta.edu). For additional information about *Prevention Science* and author guidelines, please visit <https://link.springer.com/journal/11121>.

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