



## **The Development of Implementation Strategies to Reduce Mental Health Inequalities**

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

The reduction of health inequalities, described as unfair and avoidable differences in health among people or society, is a key issue on the global health agenda. In terms of mental health, globally 450 million people live with mental health issues, while more than 700,000 people have a mental health ailment. COVID-19 has shone a light on pre-pandemic *mental health inequalities* and associated social and structural inequities. For example, during the pandemic, the meaning of physical space, place and home has taken on particular significance in the context of physical distancing and the push to create and maintain safe spaces for persons living with mental illness, poverty, homelessness and/or violence. In addition, as noted by Sukhera (2020), “structural stigma against mental illness is ‘baked in’ to our health system...” often with dire consequences for those accessing services. Many people with mental illness continue to be victimized because of their illness and become the targets of unfair discrimination.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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