

Special Issue

Social and Geographic Disparities in Healthy Aging

Message from the Guest Editor

The global population of adults aged 60 and older is rapidly expanding, largely due to the success of public health interventions focused earlier in the lifecourse, such as those that reduce maternal and child deaths. However, increased longevity has not been accompanied by an equivalent increase in “healthspan”—or the period of years spent free of disease and disability—and substantial social and geographic disparities in “healthspan” present a new public health challenge. In this issue, we invite studies from a wide range of disciplinary and methodological perspectives that build a scientific understanding of risk and resilience for healthy aging, and inform public health strategies that promote healthy aging equity both locally and globally. We conceptualize healthy aging not explicitly as “healthspan”, but also as having the capacity to live an enriched and fulfilling life even in the presence of disease and disability. As such, achieving healthy aging equity requires an awareness of lifecourse processes and context-specific social and structural determinants of health, and we encourage studies that include these perspectives.

Guest Editor

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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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Editor-in-Chief

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