

Special Issue

Addressing Health Inequities Among Underserved and Minority Populations Through Cognitive Justice: A Focus on Social Determinants of Health

Message from the Guest Editor

Despite advances in medical care and growing healthcare expenditures, health inequities persist. Structural factors rooted in racism, sexism, classism, and other discriminatory systems disproportionately impact underserved and minority populations' living conditions and restrict their access to resources. There is a need for socially relevant research that aligns with these populations' needs and values their lived experiences, including action-based research on the social determinants of health (SDOH) that acknowledges real-world challenges. Collaborative research partnerships should integrate cognitive justice to center the perspectives of marginalized groups. To combat social inequalities in healthcare, an alliance between the epistemologies of the North and South is necessary. Research bridging traditional healing and Western biomedical practices will dismantle systemic inequities and ensure interventions are just, transformative, and relevant. We are seeking actionable solutions grounded in equity, inclusivity, and the co-creation of knowledge with marginalized communities.

Guest Editor

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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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