



Toward a Lifespan Prevention Science: A Focus on Middle and Late Adulthood

Guest Editors:

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The journal *Prevention Science* invites manuscripts for a special issue “*Toward a Lifespan Prevention Science: A Focus on Middle and Late Adulthood*.” The primary goal of this special issue is to highlight current theoretical and empirical research that draws on lifespan developmental science to address the unique prevention and intervention needs in middle and late adulthood. To date, research in prevention science has focused primarily on building health and preventing disorders in childhood and adolescence, with recent advances into emerging adulthood. It has not fully embraced a *lifespan developmental* approach to understanding risk, protection, resilience, and health problems across the life course, and there is a particular dearth of studies of these issues in middle and late adulthood. We are particularly interested in papers that cover a range of contexts and prevention/intervention targets, emphasize multidisciplinary approaches, and extend beyond “emerging” or early adulthood.

Background & Rationale for Special Issue

With a growing population of older adults, our global society faces unprecedented challenges that demand innovative solutions to address overall health promotion, disease prevention, and provision of adequate health and supportive services. The international research agenda, led by agencies such as the National Institute on Aging (NIA), indicates a greater need for understanding individual, contextual, social, structural, organizational, and technological factors for healthy aging and how these can be applied in preventive interventions. Prevention research has an opportunity to contribute to this developing scientific area by applying prevention science principles to health issues in middle and late adulthood. In particular, prevention science approaches toward: (a) identification of malleable risk and protective factors for health outcomes throughout the life span; (b) development, implementation, and testing of preventive interventions targeted to older adults and their families; and (c) translation of research findings into routine evidence-based practice are likely to assist in addressing these identified research gaps.

This special issue of *Prevention Science* will bring together creative and rigorous empirical papers from multiple disciplines and methodologies to illustrate the opportunities and challenges of a lifespan approach to prevention science with special attention to middle and late adulthood. Because both empirical research and theoretical integration will be necessary to advance our understanding, we encourage submissions that include any of the following types of papers:

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- Original empirical research that examines the nature of risk and protection across the lifespan with implications for health in middle or late adulthood
- Original empirical research that examines efficacy or effectiveness of prevention and intervention efforts developed for adults
- Reviews and perspectives that integrate key conceptual issues and advance theoretical knowledge
- Policy analysis, development, and implementation papers

We are particularly interested in papers that emphasize multidisciplinary approaches that: a) address social determinants of health and reduce health disparities; b) improve services and supports for aging individuals and families, for example for persons with dementia and their caregivers; c) discuss innovative technological strategies; d) disrupt ageism and reduce stigma surrounding aging; or e) have implications for preventive health policies and programs.

Authors interested in contributing a manuscript for this special issue are asked to submit a letter of intent by **May 1, 2021**, that includes the following: (1) tentative title; (2) brief description of the proposed submission (500 words max) that also includes a justification of how it contributes to the aims of the special issue; and (3) author affiliations and contact information for corresponding author. The guest editors will review the letters of intent for fit with the special issue and work to provide an inclusive set of papers that best advances theoretical and empirical knowledge in prevention and interventions in middle and late adulthood. Letters of intent should be sent electronically as PDF files to Raven Weaver, raven.weaver@wsu.edu, Doug Coatsworth, coatsworth@utk.edu, and Karl Hill, karl.hill@colorado.edu with the subject line noted as "Special Issue of Prevention Science: Middle and Late Adulthood." All letters of intent will be reviewed by June 1, 2021, and invited contributors will be asked to submit a full manuscript through the online review system by **October 1, 2021**. Manuscripts will be sent out for full peer review in accordance with the standard *Prevention Science* review guidelines.

Questions concerning letters of intent can be directed to Raven Weaver, Doug Coatsworth, or Karl Hill. For additional information on the journal and author guidelines, see <http://link.springer.com/journal/11121>.

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