

Editorial: Changes, background data and future plans

We present you the first issue of 2025 and would like to share with you some changes in our editorial team.

The current editors of the journal are:

Dr Helen Phagava, MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Tbilisi State Medical University, Georgia; working as co-editor of *IJHG* since September, 2020.

Prof. Eric Chan, RN, MBA, Dmgt, Dean, S.K. Yee School of Health Sciences, Saint Francis University, Hong Kong. Professor Chan served as a regional editor for Asia and the Advisory Board of *IJHG* previously, and now working as co-editor beginning January 2025.

Dr Irina Ibragimova served as a regional editor for Europe in 2018–2019 and as a co-editor in 2020–2024. She also co-authored several research papers and editorials, which provided our potential authors with guidance on the *IJHG* standards and thematic priorities. At present, she becomes a journal review editor and a member of the *IJHG* Editorial Board.

Dr Fiona MacVane Phipps served as a journal review editor since 2013 and contributed greatly to journal visibility and usability, reader and author satisfaction by writing an overview of each issue, where the findings from all articles were presented in a succinct format, the major themes were described and a broader context for each article was discussed. She also served twice as a guest editor for special issues. During these years, Dr MacVane Phipps authored nearly 50 issue overviews, book reviews, interviews with our authors, editorials and research papers, which helped the *IJHG* to develop as an established and recognized journal both for scholars and policy-makers in the field of health governance.

Some background data

For the period of 2020–2024, the journal has published 2 special sections: “**Scoping Future Health & Wellbeing in the Nordics and Beyond**” with guest editors–Lars Münter, Kristine Sørensen, Tanja Schjoedt Jørgensen and Bobbie Nicole Ray-Sannerud (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ijhg-06-2022-145/full/html>), and “**Models of Digital Health Governance: Best Practices, Lessons Learned, and Future Priorities**” with guest editors–Mark Storey and Sergey Soshnikov (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ijhg-09-2023-158/full/html>).

Guest editors, Puspita Hossain and Fiona MacVane Phipps, are currently progressing articles on the topic “**Health governance in lower-income countries and conflict-affected populations**”, which will publish later in 2025. We are always keen to cover more topics as special issues and special sections so if you are interested in guest-editing for the journal, please get in touch. Some historical special issues of the journal are still receiving regular download activity and can be viewed at the below links:

- (1) **Engagement and Accountability in Your Community:** *International Journal of Health Governance*: Vol. 24 Iss. 4 | Emerald Insight – <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2059-4631/vol/24/iss/4>
- (2) **The meaning of Clinical Governance: an international comparison:** *Clinical Governance: An International Journal*: Vol. 19 Iss. 4 | Emerald Insight – <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/1477-7274/vol/19/iss/4>
- (3) **Fine Words into Action: Learning from the First Five Years of the NHS Clinical Governance Support Team:** *Clinical Governance: An International Journal*: Vol. 11



- (4) **Health Informatics in Clinical Governance:** *Clinical Governance: An International Journal*: Vol. 16 Iss. 4 | Emerald Insight – <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/1477-7274/vol/16/iss/4>
- (5) **Vaccine-preventable diseases: organizational issues and challenges:** *International Journal of Health Governance*: Vol. 22 Iss. 3 | Emerald Insight – <https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2059-4631/vol/22/iss/3>

We thought it would be helpful to give readers an idea of some of the data behind the journal. During 2024, the journal received on average over 4,000 article downloads a month. The top 5 countries that made customer downloads to the journal in the past 4 years are as follows: the UK, China, Australian, the USA and Ireland.

We know that traditional measures of impact, like Impact Factors and Citescores, are important to many academics and the journal has been steadily increasing in citations year on year, receiving 451 citations in 2024 (source: CrossRef citation data). *IJHG*'s impact factor (IF) increased in 2024 to 1.8 (2023 Impact Factor) and the journal's current CiteScore is 4.2 (2024 CiteScore).

As well as these traditional measures of impact as a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), we support the use of a range of tools to measure and support the broader impact of research (<https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/who-we-are/real-impact-manifesto>). One such alternative indicator of an article's potential impact is its Altmetric scores; and to this end, we are pleased to present here the recent articles published in the journal (2021 onwards) that have received the highest Altmetrics scores, all of which received scores that put them in the top 25% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric:

- (1) "It's not as simple as something like sugar": values and conflict in the UK meat tax debate | Emerald Insight (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJHG-03-2021-0026/full/html>)
- (2) Frequency and specificity of health issues in local political campaigns | Emerald Insight (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJHG-03-2023-0034/full/html>)
- (3) Board level "Picture-Understanding-Action": a new way of looking at quality | Emerald Insight (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJHG-05-2021-0047/full/html>)
- (4) Strengthening health data governance: new equity and rights-based principles | Emerald Insight (<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJHG-11-2022-0104/full/html>)

Future plans

We continue to work within the scope of the journal.

Prospective authors can check the journal requirements presented in detail on the site of the journal (<https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/ijhg>) and in previous editorials:

Ibragimova, I. and Phagava, H. (2024), "Editorial: *IJHG* author guidelines and policies", *International Journal of Health Governance*, Vol. 29 No. 2, pp. 85–88. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHG-06-2024-162>

Ibragimova, I. and Phagava, H. (2024), "Editorial: Why manuscripts are being unsubmitted and desk-rejected by editors", *International Journal of Health Governance*, Vol. 29 No. 4, pp. 309–313. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHG-12-2024-165>

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