

Artificial Intelligence and Public Health: A Special Issue for the Journal *Public Health*

Guest Editors:

Dr Alisha Davies, Public Health Wales, UK

Dr Elliott Roy-Highley, University College London, UK

We are pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue on Artificial Intelligence and Public Health.

Public Health is an international, multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal. It publishes original research papers, reviews (up to 3000 words in length), commentaries and short communications (up to 1500 words) on all aspects of the science, philosophy and practice of public health. It is aimed at all public health practitioners and researchers, and those who manage and deliver public health services and systems. It is also of interest to anyone involved in the provision of public health programmes, the care of populations or communities and those who contribute to public health systems in any way.

Public Health invites submissions for a special issue dedicated to artificial intelligence (AI) for the prevention of poor health. Can AI support public health by shifting a narrative and action towards prevention? AI technologies are emerging as being potentially useful for identifying risk, automating messaging interventions and building healthier communities – before health outcomes worsen.

This special issue seeks to explore how AI can support prevention-focused public health, from early detection, risk and forecasting, to behavioural nudges or addressing the social determinants of health. We aim to showcase innovative research and critical perspectives that look to explore how AI can not only treat or manage health but can prevent disease, reduce inequalities and promote well-being at scale. We welcome submissions that explore (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Predictive analytics for early intervention and disease prevention
- Natural language processing in health communication, behavioural change and personalised prevention
- Use of wearable technology and real-time data in preventative public health strategies
- AI and social determinants of health: identifying and addressing upstream risk factors

- Systems thinking: AI for modelling policy or prevention at scale
- AI for health equity and addressing disparities
- Ethical, legal and social implications of AI in public health, extending to public trust and accountability
- Case studies of AI implementation in real-world public health interventions.

Further information about submission requirements can be found at: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/public-health>. Authors should select the ‘VSI: AI and Public Health’ article type when uploading their article. If you have any other questions relating to this call for papers, please email the Editorial Office: publichealth@rph.org.uk.

The deadline for submission to this special issue is 31 May 2026.