

## Welcome from the Editors

*We are what our thinking makes us. ~ Nigerian Proverb*

Welcome, Readers, to the ninth issue of the Healthy Populations Journal (HPJ). This special issue and its theme “Improving the Health Outcomes of Persons of African Descent” was inspired by the inaugural international Black Health Conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2022. HPJ is a student-run, open-access, peer-reviewed journal housed at the Healthy Populations Institute (HPI) at Dalhousie University. Our focus is to highlight student-led population health and health equity research and support new authors in the academic publishing process. This guest editorial board represents perspectives from diverse emerging scholars from the community. We are excited to present our community’s voices in this issue.


*Fetus in Situ* is the title of this special issue’s cover artwork from settler-Metis artist Jamie Thompson, a Northern Ontario School of Medicine Student. Exclusions and disparities in medical imagery is too frequently experienced by Indigenous, Black, and People of the global majority (PGM). This beaded artwork addresses this gap in medical illustrations and raises awareness of existing biases in medical/health care education. This special issue also features a poem written by Timi Idris that speaks to the strength and fortitude people of African descent have had to develop in the face of inequities.

This special issue also features a commentary on the identity of Black Nova Scotians by Dr. Keisha Jefferies. Original research in this issue covers timely, interesting, and important topics such as Noémie Bergeron-Germain’s research on the relationship of racial stress to executive functioning and whether cultural competency is practiced in Canadian mental health care, presented by Kameryn Whyte. There are many voices and critical perspectives to hear in this special issue that provide a needed perspective on Black health.

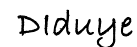
We thank the Editorial Board of HPJ for their support throughout this process. Additionally, our gratitude to the Healthy Populations Institute and the Flagship for their continued support throughout this process of sharing stories from our community. This special issue offers much for challenging current thinking and opportunities for reflection. We hope that you enjoy reading the contributions.



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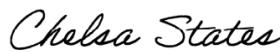
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