

**Welcome from the “Improving the Health Outcomes of People of African Descent”
Flagship Project at the Healthy Populations Institute (HPI)**

On behalf of the HPI Flagship team for [*Improving the Health Outcomes of People of African Descent*](#), we would like to welcome you to this special issue on “Improving Black Health Outcomes.” We are thrilled to be partnering with HPJ for this issue focusing on Black health equity and the imperative need to reduce health disparities. The idea of this special issue originated during the International Black Health Conference (IBHC) held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from October 6-8, 2022. The IBHC was an important foundational gathering focused on improving Black health outcomes across the African Diaspora by informing clinical practice, policy change, as well as showcasing achievements and promising practices. The IBHC was animated by the drive to address the social and structural determinants of health for people of African descent. This required the participation of cross-sectoral partnerships including public health professionals, health policymakers, researchers, students, community-based organizations, community activists and leaders, professionals in health care, education, employment, criminal justice, and other sectors. You can read the full Conference report [here](#), including the lessons learned from fifteen table-talks where attendees from different sectors were grouped to discuss topics such as Health Education, Health Policy, Health Research, Health Services, Mental Health, and others.

During the IBHC, it was evident that there’s much work to do, and we also learned that there is much important work being done. Our intention is making this important ongoing work accessible, as well as the diversity of perspectives around Black health equity. Recognizing that knowledge can be created and shared in ways that are diverse, HPJ was a clear partner in this endeavor.

We hope that this special issue presents you with an opportunity to expand your knowledge on Black health equity, challenge your thinking, and inspire you to act to reduce health disparities. Congratulations to the Guest Editorial Board, and the HPJ Executive team for their work to make this special issue happen.

Sincerely,

On behalf of HPI Flagship team, Co-leads:

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