Call for papers – JCPP *Advances* Special Issue 2023

Evidence-synthesis of randomized clinical trials and observational studies in child and adolescent mental health

JCPP Advances invites manuscripts for a special issue entitled "**Evidence-based synthesis studies for child and adolescent mental health conditions"** to be edited by Professor Henrik Larsson, Dr Marco Solmi, Professor Guilherme Polanczyk, Professor Seena Fazel, Dr Cinzia Del Giovane and Dr Ioana Cristea, and due for publication in **September 2023**.

About the special issue

This special issue will focus on high-quality evidence-synthesis studies of randomized clinical trials and observational data in child and adolescent mental health, including clinical or educational reviews, scoping reviews, systematic reviews, meta-analysis of aggregated data, meta-analysis of individual participant data, network meta-analysis, umbrella reviews, and bibliometric reviews. Such evidence synthesis studies are critical for appraising available evidence and guiding clinical practice and policy around child and adolescent mental health problems. Another critical goal of such evidence synthesis studies is to identify problems in primary research that should be addressed in future studies and also to provide directions for future research priorities.

The publication of evidence synthesis studies has grown exponentially in recent decades, and many place such publications at to the top of the pyramid of what is considered good evidence. Nevertheless, the quality of the published studies vary substantially and many are sensitive to bias and errors. We are therefore also interested in educational reviews focusing on key practical, conceptual and methodological issues that are related to conducting and reporting of high-quality evidence-synthesis studies. We also believe the field is in need of reviews that place evidence-synthesis studies/methodology in a broader context. Given that evidence synthesis methodology has advanced rapidly during the past decade, we are interested in submissions with a focus on recent developments in methodology for evidence synthesis studies.

We encourage submissions from different nations/regions of high-quality papers with a focus on (but are not limited to) prevalence, developmental stability, comorbidity, risk factors, physical health, outcomes and treatments for child and adolescent mental health conditions. For example:

- Occurrence of child and adolescent mental health conditions
- Developmental stability in child and adolescent mental health conditions
- Comorbidity in child and adolescent mental health conditions
- Risk factors for child and adolescent mental health conditions
- Outcomes of child and adolescent mental health problems
- Treatment outcomes
- Comparative treatment studies (efficacy/effectiveness)

Systematic reviews should adhere to EQUATOR (https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/) or other reporting guidelines, as appropriate. Systematic review protocols should be pre-registered.

Submission Information

Interested authors should submit a protocol template (applies to all systematic reviews) or a letter of intent (applies for all educational, non-systematic reviews) as a Microsoft Word document to the JCPP *Advances* editorial office (louie.sandys@acamh.org) with 'Evidence-based synthesis studies for child and adolescent mental health conditions' in the subject line by **1st May 2022**.

The protocol template for systematic reviews proposals can be found attached and below. Non-systematic reviews (e.g., educational reviews) proposals should submit a letter that include the following: a tentative title; a brief description of the proposed submission (up to 500 words) including a clear statement of the methods

and findings; a brief explanation of the unique contribution made by the proposed manuscript (under 100 words); names of envisaged co-authors; and contact information for the corresponding author.

The editors will review all protocol templates and letters and invite shortlisted authors to submit full manuscripts. The editors will contact all authors by no later than **9th May 2022,** to inform them on whether or not they have been invited to submit a full manuscript. If you do not hear back by this date, please do notify the editorial office (louie.sandys@acamh.org). The submission of full manuscripts will be due by no later than **1st September 2022**.

Please note that following the letters of intent, all submitted full manuscripts will be subject to the standard robust peer review process and final acceptance is not guaranteed. In some instances, some manuscripts may be accepted for publication in normal JCPP *Advances* issues outside of the special issue.

Papers accepted into JCPP *Advances* will be published on Early View ahead of appearing in the special issue.

Open Access Fees and Funding Information

Please note that JCPP *Advances* is an Open Access journal and will therefore involve article processing fees. However, your institution or funder may be able to help with open access Article Publication Charges (APCs) through a Wiley Open Access Account. Check here for more details.

In case your paper is funded by an NIH funding institute, due to the funder mandate, your paper will be indexed on PubMedCentral and therefore discoverable on Pubmed and Medline.

Protocol template for submission of systematic reviews

Title: *clearly identify the type of review (e.g., scoping review, systematic review, umbrella review)*

Protocol registration: *indicate where the protocol has been/will be registered*

Authors, affiliations, and email: *provide details on authors, and identify corresponding author*

Funding/sponsor/support: *indicate funding/sponsor/support*

Introduction:

1. ***Rationale/background:*** overview of available evidence and reasons for conducting the review
2. ***Objectives:*** clearly state the main objectives

Methods:

1. ***Reporting guidelines:*** clear reference to the EQUATOR reporting guidelines, including how it is adhered to in the review
2. ***Search and screening process:*** describe search key, databases searched, search date, software to handle references and eventual screening

3. ***Eligibility criteria:*** report study design, population, intervention/exposure, control group, outcomes. Primary and secondary outcome must be clearly defined. Clearly indicate if transitivity assumptions are met if a network meta-analysis

4. ***Data extraction:*** report variables to extract

5. ***Statistical analysis plan:*** report a-priori statistical analysis plan, including details on fixed/random effects, heterogeneity, effect sizes, inconsistency, publication bias, additional biases test, and any other quantitative approach, and the software. State if no statistical analysis will be conducted.

6. ***Quality/risk of bias of included studies:*** report what tools will be used to rate the quality or risk of bias of included individual studies, or reviews/meta-analyses

7. ***Certainty/credibility/level of evidence:*** report in detail what criteria will be used to grade the credibility, certainty, or level of evidence (such as GRADE).