

Special Issue: Ending HIV/AIDS in the Asia–Pacific region

Meet the Editors

Kimberly Green

Who you are and what you do?

I'm a public health expert who is passionate about advancing primary health care, community leadership in health care, digital health and self-care tools like pre-exposure prophylaxis to HIV. As PATH's Global Director for HIV and TB, I support implementation science to inform new models of care, innovative service delivery and financing, and market shaping to sustain access to new tools and technologies.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Studies and commentaries that offer new findings and recommendations to address pressing health problems.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Papers that generalise and make broad conclusions when the evidence does not support such conclusions.

Advice for authors

Focus on the logic of the paper. Ensure that each sentence is necessary and builds towards the rationale of the study, its design, and conclusions.



Kimberly Green

Heather-Marie A. Schmidt

Who you are and what you do?

I'm the Regional Advisor for pre-exposure prophylaxis with UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific, and the World Health Organization based in Bangkok, Thailand. I have a background in public health policy and programs,

epidemiology and research, and a keen interest in improving and supporting equity in the local and national public health responses to HIV, STIs and other infectious diseases.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Good papers come in all shapes and sizes but the ones that stand out are clear, concise, have well-defined results and immediately show me why I should care about the particular study or topic without overstating their results, even if it isn't in my field.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Papers that appear to have been written hastily, don't have a clear logical flow, aren't clear about their purpose or methods, are internally inconsistent, overstate their methods or results, and/or make several mistakes from not thoroughly proofreading make it hard to trust that the research has been well-conducted.

Advice for authors

- Using a lens of 'Why should the reader care?' can help you get to core of the paper quickly and work out the key messages at the beginning. If you're not clear on why your paper is important or what the key messages are, your reader won't be either.
- It may seem tedious but use an outline to ensure that your paper has a logic and follows it.
- Have a colleague who was not involved in writing the paper proofread it for errors in logic, referencing, grammar and spelling, and ensuring that nothing is missing, inconsistent or nonsensical.
- If you get the opportunity, becoming a reviewer can help you identify areas to improve in your own articles.



Heather-Marie A. Schmidt

Andrew J. Vallely

Who you are and what you do?

I am a clinical epidemiologist with joint appointments at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, and the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research in Goroka, where I have led clinical research and large-scale intervention trials in sexual and reproductive health since 2007.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Papers that are clearly written, well-structured and innovative in design, methodology, conduct.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Papers that lack structure or cohesion, fail to convey key findings in a concise readily interpretable manner, draw conclusions that are not supported by the data presented.

Advice for authors

- Ensure key concepts, rationale, methodology, study findings and their interpretation are accessible to non-specialist as well as specialist readers.
- Read the journal 'Instructions to Authors' guidelines and ensure your manuscript meets requirements of word count, format, structure.



Andrew J. Vallely

Lei Zhang

Who you are and what you do?

I am an epidemiologist in HIV and STI research. I have expertise in mathematical modelling and artificial intelligence methods. I am currently a Senior Research Fellow at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Australia, and a Professor and Director of the China-Australia Joint Research Center of Infectious Diseases, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China. I am also an HIV technical advisor for the World Health Organization Western Pacific. My main research focus is to investigate the transmission of HIV and STIs using sophisticated mathematical modelling and AI approaches, evaluation of HIV and STI intervention programs, and health economic evaluation.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

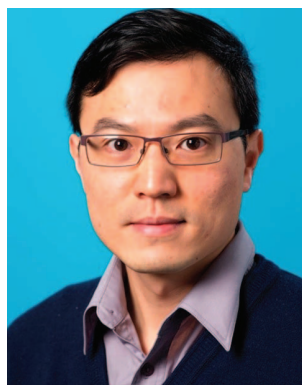
A paper with clear innovations, a new perspective, angle, and method. Also, solid justifications of the arguments are essential. A nice flow of logic and clean writing always add marks.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

The conclusions are not supported by its findings. Overclaiming the significance of the findings or findings do not have a generalisable application. Trying to fit too many points in a single paper and lack of a clear focus. Outdated data and poor writing.

Advice for authors

- Ensure your paper has a clear logical flow and it tells a complete story.
- Always highlight the innovation in its ideas and significance to the population, do not expect the editor or review to find them for you.
- Ask an experienced colleague to spot holes and logical flaws in your paper before your submission.



Lei Zhang

Angela Kelly-Hanku

Who you are and what you do?

I am a social scientist and public health researcher and development practitioner with more than 25 years of experience in responding to HIV in the Asia and Pacific region, most notably Papua New Guinea and Australia. I lead the Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit at the PNG Institute of Medical Research and I am Group Lead, Global Health Equity and Justice at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney. But most importantly I am a woman who is deeply committed to ensuring equity and justice for our communities living with and affected by HIV. I try to bridge research and real world practice in all that I do. I am dedicated to building research capacity in our region and fostering meaningful partnerships with communities of sex workers, gay and other men who have sex with men, trans and other diverse people, people who use drugs, serodiscordant couples and others essential to ending AIDS.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

A flawless paper in both style and story which has synthesised the area well and which is forging new territory, however big or small.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

It takes a great deal for me to reject a paper outright. I try to find the potential in all papers, even if I give a list as long as your arm of changes and thoughts! This is a sign of respect from me to the authors that I have engaged in their work and seek to support them to publish. But if authors' have not put in any effort or care into developing the story and ensuring that they have made their very best effort then I am likely to reject.

Advice for authors

I always think it's best to write simply and clearly. Ensure that you have established the story you want to tell. Take the advice of others, even if it hurts! Deleting words and phrases you have sweated to write can be hard, but if you trust and respect your peers, and blind reviewers, it is always best to learn from those more experienced. Many of the stories and papers we need to publish originate from settings where English isn't the first or most comfortable language to express ideas and thoughts. Always share your papers with those for whom English is fluent and who have a proven track record in supporting emerging researchers to be published. Learn from others outside of your discipline; we all have different writing styles. I have learned a lot from epidemiologists as much as I have from social scientists about writing. And I am still learning.



Angela Kelly-Hanku

Rena Janamnuysook

Who you are and what you do?

I am a Program Manager for transgender health at the Institute of HIV Research and Innovation (IHRI) in Bangkok, Thailand, where I established the Tangerine Community Health Clinic as the first transgender-led health clinic in the region. I manage and provide technical guidance for the development and implementation of HIV research and programs for the transgender population. I am one of the Program Fellows of the CHIMERA D43 program which is part of the IeDEA network program to learn to conduct HIV and mental health implementation research.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

A paper that contributes to novel scientific knowledge and is written in a logical flow which responds to a research question.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

A paper that does not contribute to novel scientific knowledge and does not logically respond to a research question. A discussion that does not relate to the study findings.

Advice for authors

- Start with your key messages before writing the full paper.
- Understand your research question(s) and the study findings.
- Have clear and consistent language and terms throughout the paper.
- Have someone proofread the paper and revise accordingly.



Rena Janamnuysook

Jason J. Ong

Who you are and what you do?

I am an academic sexual health physician. I have joint appointments at Monash University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Melbourne. My main areas of interest are in economic evaluations, measuring health preferences and infectious disease modelling to improve sexual health among key populations in a variety of settings including low- and middle-income countries.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Papers with a clearly defined research question and detailed, replicable methodology that has potential to impact policies or spur new research.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Incoherent papers that are poorly structured, difficult to follow what was actually done, and with no clear discussion of how it contributes to our current understanding of the topic.

Advice for authors

Utilise the relevant 'best practice' guidelines (e.g. PRISMA for systematic reviews, CHEERS for economic evaluations,

CONSORT for randomised controlled trials, STROBE for observational studies, COREQ for qualitative studies) to ensure that all relevant information is included in your manuscript. As you go through the sometimes arduous gauntlet of the peer-review process, turn every critique into an opportunity to refine your research or even spur new ideas for future work.



Jason J. Ong