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## Editorials

# Building the Future of Preventive Medicine Equity, Innovation, and the Power of Youth

The Editorial Team, *Frontiers in Preventive Medicine*

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### Abstract

This inaugural editorial announces the launch of *Frontiers in Preventive Medicine* (FPM), a pioneering open-access journal established under the Public Health Young Scholars Alliance. In response to the prohibitive costs of traditional academic publishing that often marginalize early-career researchers, FPM is committed to fostering an equitable, non-profit platform for knowledge dissemination. We outline our core mission: to empower young scholars by removing financial barriers, demonstrated by our landmark waiver of all Article Processing Charges until December 2026. Beyond this period, a sustainable low-cost model will be adopted. The journal is dedicated to publishing high-quality, rigorously peer-reviewed research across the spectrum of preventive medicine, with the ultimate goal of nurturing the next generation of leaders and contributing to a more resilient and equitable future for global public health.

**Keywords:** Preventive Medicine; Open Access Publishing; Early-Career Researchers; Academic Equity; Public Health; Scholarly Communication; Inaugural Editorial

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It is with great excitement and a profound sense of mission that we announce the launch of *Frontiers in Preventive Medicine* (FPM). In an era of escalating global health challenges—from emerging infectious diseases and the rising burden of non-communicable diseases to persistent health inequities—the field of preventive medicine stands as the crucial first line of defense in safeguarding population health and ensuring sustainable societal development. Yet, the knowledge and innovation that drive this field forward are often trapped behind barriers in traditional academic publishing. Today, we begin a new chapter.

### Navigating a Paradox: Breaking the Chains of Scholarly Publishing

In the current landscape, high Article Processing Charges (APCs) levied by the majority

of open-access journals present a significant financial burden, particularly for early-career researchers and scholars from underfunded institutions. This creates a stark paradox: while building a robust publication record is indispensable for young scholars to emerge as future leaders in health sciences, the path to doing so is often prohibitively expensive. This financial pressure forces many to make difficult choices between disseminating their work and sustaining their research.

This situation not only stifles the growth of talented individuals but also suffocates the intellectual vitality and diversity of innovation in preventive medicine. We firmly believe that the most transformative ideas can emerge from laboratories, field studies, or community practices, but they must not be silenced by financial

barriers.

### **Our Mission and Commitment: A Platform for Youth, by Youth**

Driven by this conviction and under the auspices of the Public Health Young Scholars Alliance, *Frontiers in Preventive Medicine* is founded. We aspire to be a fair, open, and non-profit academic home, and we make the following core commitments:

**1. A Landmark Fee Waiver:** To immediately alleviate the financial burden on our contributors, we are delighted to waive all Article Processing Charges for all manuscripts submitted before December 31, 2026.

**2. A Sustainable, Low-Cost Model:** Beyond the waiver period, FPM will operate on a minimal-cost model. A modest fee will be retained thereafter, solely designed to cover the essential operational costs of the platform and to honor the invaluable work of our peer reviewers.

**3. A Focus on Empowering Young Scholars:** We will prioritize submissions from early-career researchers and graduate students worldwide, offering them guided support, expedited review cycles, and constructive feedback. This is not merely a publication venue but a community for learning and growth.

**4. Uncompromising Academic Rigor:** Low cost will never mean low standards. We will uphold a stringent international peer-review process, overseen by an editorial board of distinguished scholars and experts, ensuring the scientific validity, novelty, and ethical integrity of every published article.

### **Envisioning the Future: Collaborating for a Healthier World**

*Frontiers in Preventive Medicine* will spotlight

cutting-edge research in epidemiology, health promotion, environmental and occupational health, global health policy, and the application of big data in prevention. We look forward to showcasing:

1. **Profound studies uncovering the root causes of health disparities.**

2. **Innovative and scalable community-based interventions.**

3. **Novel models utilizing AI and technology for early disease detection and warning systems.**

4. **Critical public health narratives from underrepresented regions, particularly the Global South.**

We are confident that this initiative will empower a new generation of public health scholars, ignite their research passion and creativity, and cultivate the future pillars of global public health. Our ultimate goal is to contribute to a more equitable and open academic ecosystem.

### **Acknowledgments and Invitation**

The birth of this journal is made possible by the support and encouragement of numerous like-minded scholars, mentors, and institutions. We cordially invite our global colleagues in preventive medicine—from established experts to aspiring young talents—to join us in this endeavor: as authors, submitting your finest work; as reviewers, sharing your expertise to nurture the next generation; and as readers, actively engaging in this critical conversation about our shared future.

Let us join hands, starting from this new platform of *Frontiers in Preventive Medicine*, to collectively cultivate a more resilient and equitable future for health.