Call for Papers
PHR Supplement on Advancing the Public Health Laboratory System Through Partnerships

Public Health Reports (PHR), a peer reviewed public health journal, is inviting papers for a special supplement issue on partnerships between public health laboratories and clinical, environmental, agricultural, and veterinary laboratories. Together with public health laboratories, these laboratories form the backbone of a national laboratory network used to detect emerging infectious diseases and to respond to natural disasters, chemical spills, foodborne outbreaks, and other health threats, and are crucial for public health decision making. Partnerships may be public-private collaborations or public-public collaborations, such as between multiple state or local public health laboratories. Submitted papers should document how partnerships strengthen the public health laboratory system at the local, state, or national level (see Definition of a State Public Health Laboratory System). The Guest Editors who will guide the manuscript selection are Dr. Michael Pentella, University of Iowa; Dr. Reynolds Salerno, CDC; Dr. Kirsten St. George, New York State Department of Health-Wadsworth Center; and Dr. Renée Ned-Sykes, CDC. The journal is calling for manuscripts that focus on partnership and outreach related topics such as:

- Outcomes of the Public Health Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) assessments
- Laboratory Informatics, how technology and tools such as APHL’s Informatics Self-Assessment Tool offer data or mechanisms to strengthen the PHL system
- Examples of successful systems and outreach approaches such as, but not limited to:
  - Statewide and regional testing services for antibiotic resistance testing, confirmation and surveillance
  - TB testing, rapid detection and surveillance
  - Testing to support detection of emerging pathogens such as Zika virus, MERS and Ebola virus
  - The use of Next Generation Sequencing to guide prevention activities in communities and hospital environments
- Global public health laboratory system improvement activities and results
- Outreach activities with clinical partners that have strengthened the public health laboratory system and resulted in improvements in quality assurance, better patient care and laboratory biosafety
- Assessments of Return on Investment (ROI) of a public health laboratory program or activity
- Experiences (benefits, challenges) of operating as part of a state-directed regional network
• Using the Public Health Laboratory System Database (PHLSD) to improve COOP planning, emergency response, CLIA reporting or other system initiatives
• Improvements in, or impact of, public health laboratory workforce development initiatives (e.g., recruitment or retention programs, human resource management processes, training or education programs), particularly those that integrate the Competency Guidelines for Public Health Laboratory Professionals
• Successful interactions or partnerships with federal agencies (not limited to just CDC), academic, clinical or commercial/industry partners, or foreign entities.

The Guest Editors request that all authors interested in submitting a full manuscript to the special supplement first send an abstract for initial review and comment. Abstracts should be submitted to Tina Su (bertina.su@aphl.org) as soon as possible but no later than midnight on October 16, 2017. The Guest Editors will review all abstracts and then contact authors about the suitability of a full manuscript submission to the supplement issue. Submitted abstracts should be structured (objectives, methods, results, and conclusions), written generally in accordance with AMA style, and no longer than 250 words. No tables, figures, or references should be included in the abstract.

The following types of articles are acceptable: original research, public health evaluation, public health methodology, case study/practice, brief report, reports and recommendations, systematic review, and commentary. For more details and the criteria used for acceptance, see PHR’s Instructions to Authors. Submitted manuscripts will be reviewed initially and considered for external peer review by the Guest Editors and the PHR Editor in Chief. The submission deadline for manuscripts is February 28, 2018. Manuscripts should be submitted through PHR’s electronic manuscript submission system (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/phr).

Public Health Reports is the official journal of the Office of the United States Surgeon General and the United States Public Health Service, published through an agreement with the Association of Schools of Public Health. Published since 1878, PHR was the first public health journal published in the United States. It is widely distributed internationally, and is indexed by MEDLINE/Index Medicus, Current Contents, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Pais International, and LexisNexis. More information on the journal is available at http://journals.sagepub.com/home/phr.

Questions about this call for papers should be submitted to Tina Su (240.485.2729; bertina.su@aphl.org). Questions about PHR should be submitted to the Managing Editor, Andrey Kuzmichev (Andrey.Kuzmichev@hhs.gov).