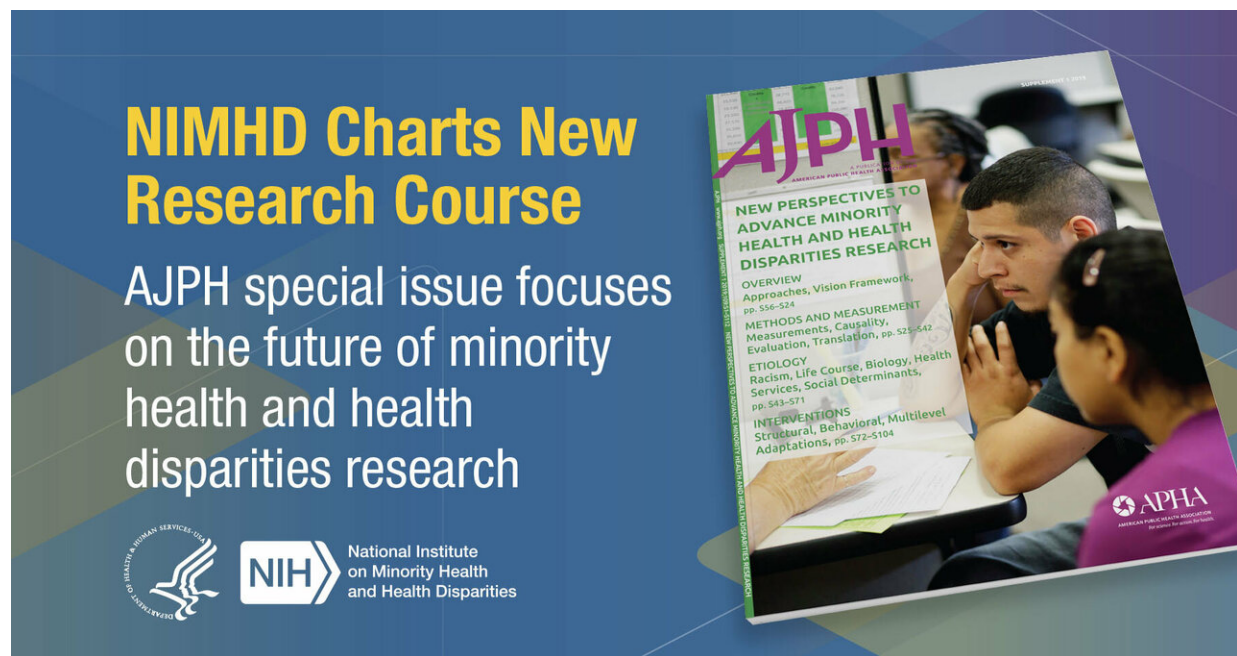


The future of minority health and health disparities research is here

February 1 2019



AJPH special issue focuses on the future of minority health and health disparities research. Credit: NIMHD

Health disparities have persisted, despite extensive research and a decades-long mandate to eliminate them. Thus, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) led a National Institutes of Health-wide, two-year science visioning process to chart a new research course to improve minority health and reduce health disparities. The *American Journal of Public Health* (AJPH) special issue,

New Perspectives to Advance Minority Health and Health Disparities Research, is the culmination of this process with input from experts to help NIH determine the science needed to address health disparities. Thirty specific research strategies were identified across the three pillars that guided the science visioning: methods and measurement, etiology, and interventions.

Within the issue are analytic essays and editorials which cover harmonizing [health](#) disparities measurement, leveraging the data-rich world, addressing social determinants of health; designing structural, behavioral, and multilevel interventions; and building an evidence base to adapt interventions for health disparities populations. Other covered topics include methodologies to understand causes, the importance of a life course perspective, and key biological mechanisms that link social exposures to chronic diseases. This special issue is introduced by NIMHD Director Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D, and NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., in an Editor's Choice editorial.

The science visioning is a transdisciplinary effort that bridged scientific disciplines to develop a coordinated research vision to improve health and reduce disease in populations that experience [health disparities](#), e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, underserved rural populations, and sexual and gender minorities. NIH endorses the new research course described in these articles and will use the strategies developed to guide the implementation of the NIH Strategic Plan on Minority Health and Health Disparities in the next five years. The science that will come from advancing these strategies will help enable NIMHD's vision—an America in which all populations will have an equal opportunity to live long, healthy, and productive lives.

More information: Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable et al, Science Visioning in Minority Health and Health Disparities, *American Journal of Public*

Health (2019). [DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2019.304962](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.304962)

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