Letter of Intent Deadline: November 15, 2018

Facilitated by advances in salivary bioscience, great strides over the past several decades have been made in understanding how psychological and social factors "get under the skin." Research utilizing salivary markers of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis activity, sympathetic nervous system activation, as well as other neuroendocrine and immune processes has greatly contributed to research in behavioral medicine. This has included more precise identification of the biological pathways by which such factors influence health and disease. Behavioral medicine research increasingly integrates advanced clinical and laboratory assessments of relevant immune system and neuroendocrine markers in saliva to identify mechanisms, stress processes, and evaluate the impact of clinical intervention on physiological systems. This special call aims to highlight novel contributions of salivary bioscience to behavioral medicine with emphasis on research relevant to chronic management, the influence of psychological and social factors on disease processes and understanding stress processes. This can include observational, experimental, and intervention research. In fact, papers that document how changes in salivary levels of health-relevant biomarkers in response to behavioral interventions contribute to intervention efficacy are encouraged. Research that bridges the intersections of behavioral medicine and other areas of research (e.g., neuroscience, medical practice, nursing, public health, health psychology) are likely to make a strong contribution.

The *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine* is committed to publishing excellent research across the broad spectrum of behavioral medicine, including health-behavior relationships, the prevention of illness and the promotion of health, the effects of illness on the self and others, the effectiveness of novel interventions, identification of biobehavioral mechanisms, and the influence of social factors on health. The focus of this special call is on the innovative use of salivary biomarkers across these wide domains.

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due by **November 15, 2018**. LOIs <u>must</u> include the following sections:

1. Rationale of how the manuscript complements and extends prior and current work salivary bioscience, and how it will contribute to science, theory, policy or practice.
2. Specific hypotheses or research questions.
3. Research methods, including sample definition and selection procedures, research design, intervention design (if applicable), and key constructs.
4. Central findings that address the major research questions. If the study involves statistical analyses, statistical analysis techniques and primary statistical findings supporting the research questions must be presented in the text as well as a table.
5. Assurance that that all data to be analyzed for this manuscript have been collected and analyzed at the time of this submission.

Please send it to Michael Hoyt at IJBM@hunter.cuny.edu.

LOIs will be evaluated by the special editors in terms of the adequacy of the theoretical or conceptual framework for the study; the study's significance and contribution to the field; the study's methodological adequacy, in terms of design, operationalization of constructs, sampling, and data analyses; and the overall comprehensibility and clarity of the writing. LOIs that do not present primary results will not be considered but may be submitted at a later time as a regular manuscript.

LOIs that pass the first stage of review will be invited for full manuscript submission and peer review **by the January 1, 2019**. Manuscripts will be due by **March 1, 2019**.