

# Scientific research and writing mentorship initiative towards diversity in research on alcohol control policies

Initiative overview and application process

**Deadline to apply**  
15 December 2021

## About the programme

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Less Alcohol Unit, Department of Health Promotion, the Alcohol Research Group (ARG) and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research have launched a new scientific research and writing mentorship initiative. The initiative aims to support early-stage researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in their work to analyse, report and publish a study related to strengthening alcohol policies tackling the determinants driving the acceptability, availability and affordability of alcohol consumption. Overall, the initiative seeks to accelerate the finalization of scientific research with the support of expert mentors.

Mentees (early-stage researchers) will be paired with mentors (senior academics) to participate in this 9-month initiative commencing no later than 1st January 2022. Through regular, at-distance access to mentors, the initiative aims to ensure researchers have the necessary guidance to finalize a study with contextually relevant results. Mentees are encouraged, and will be supported by their mentors, to submit their study findings for scientific publication. As an output of the initiative, a summary slide deck should be prepared for the further dissemination of results. A limited number mentees will be selected for this initial cohort of the initiative.

## Who can apply to be a mentee?

- National of a low-, lower-middle or upper-middle-income country according to the World Bank classification.
- Affiliated to an academic institution or public organization (e.g., national public health institute, observatories, statistics agencies, etc.) in a LMIC, or abroad, yet with the research focused on a LMIC context.
- Conducting a study on a relevant topic pertaining to reducing the harmful use of alcohol as the lead researcher and primary author.
- First author of less than five peer reviewed articles, with preference for first-time first authors.

## Expectations of participating early-stage researchers

- Attend regular monthly meetings with mentor, as scheduled.
- Advance an ongoing study related to reducing the harmful use of alcohol for submission as a scientific article.
- Share working drafts of the manuscript with the mentor for written feedback.
- Coordinate across study team members contributing to the preparation of the manuscript.
- Complete the necessary processes for the submission of the manuscript to a scientific journal.
- Oversee the review process when feedback from peer reviewers is received.
- Prepare a summary of the study as a slide set upon completion of the initiative.



## Target research themes

Priority will be given to studies focused on the context of LMIC (single country or multi-country). Studies may include original research, reviews, conceptual work, and simulations that help identify mechanisms of policy action. Studies that capture the facilitators and barriers of policy and legislative development processes—locally, nationally, and internationally—are also of interest. Specific areas of investigation may include: physical availability and licensing of alcohol outlet density and locations; warning labels of alcoholic beverages, influence of custom agreements, consumers' choice, informed decisions; marketing, restrictions to reduce exposure, codes related to its contents, advertising, sponsorship, digital specificities, surveillance and enforcement; settings protected from advertisement, outlets and exposure in general, e.g., school, colleges, sport centres and settings where alcohol is purchased and consumed on the premises; unrecorded alcohol including illicit production and trade, gender issues related to it, home-made production; conflict of interest, interference of economic operators in the design and implementation of policies protecting public health, self- and co-regulatory schemes, corporate responsibility; alcohol's chronic and acute harms to the individual, and harms to others; and the impact of alcohol control and environmental measures that promise to reduce the public health burden of alcohol problems from an international perspective.

## Important considerations

- Participating in the initiative is not a guarantor of publication of the study results. Mentors will support researchers to select a suitable target journal and aim to support the researcher in the submission and revision process. The acceptance of a paper for publication lies with the journal's editorial board.
- Mentees are encouraged to take note of the special issue of the "International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health: Advancing Public Health by Alcohol Control: International Perspectives." The special issue may be suitable for studies completed as part of this programme, however, publication in the special issue will follow established peer review processes and mentees may pursue other journals.
- Mentees can apply for resources to support data analysis expenses, language editing and/or translation of the study. Requests for resources will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the initiative coordinators.
- All studies should be published as open access articles in accordance with the WHO's policies for equal access to research findings. Waivers for processing fees should be pursued as far as possible. Where waivers are not granted, a request for additional support can be requested and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- All publications related to studies supported by the "Scientific Research and Writing Mentorship Initiative" require acknowledgement of initiative and funding support of the WHO. A standard acknowledgement statement will be provided.
- Both mentors and mentees and the full study team will be required to complete a declaration of interests at the outset of the initiative.
- It is presumed the mentor will be included as a co-author of the scientific article intended as an output of the initiative. This decision is ultimately left to the study team.



## How to apply

Please apply by emailing a CV and a study abstract (max 500 words) or study protocol (max 1,000 words) to [ptrangenstein@arg.org](mailto:ptrangenstein@arg.org). Applications can be submitted in any official language of WHO (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Applications will be assessed on a rolling-basis. Closing date for applications is 15 December 2021.

## Interested to be a mentor?

Mentors are expected to provide monthly support over the 9-month initiative to their paired mentee in the preparation of a study for scientific publication. The work of mentors may include support to interpret results, advising on the presentation of findings and formulation of policy recommendations, commenting to drafts of the manuscript, supporting initial submissions and replies to reviewers.

Individuals with the following profile are sought:

- Advanced level university research degree in public health or medicine or social science.
- More than 10 years of experience researching public health interventions to reduce the consumption of alcohol and/or the impact of alcohol consumption on health.
- Record of high impact research related to the study of alcohol reduction, the impact of alcohol consumption on health and well-being, the implementation and measurement of strategies and interventions, or similar published in international scientific journals.
- Methodological qualitative and quantitative expertise.
- Previous experience in the role as an academic advisor.

To participate in this initiative as a mentor, please contact the organizers by 15 December 2021 with your CV and a short expression of interest for further details. A limited target of mentors (one per mentee) are foreseen for the 2022 cohort. The pool of mentors aims to include representation from across WHO regions, various country, contexts and technical areas of expertise. Mentors will receive a small honorarium for their time.

## Initiative coordinators

### World Health Organization

Juan Tello  
Head, Less Alcohol Unit  
[telloj@who.int](mailto:telloj@who.int)

### Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

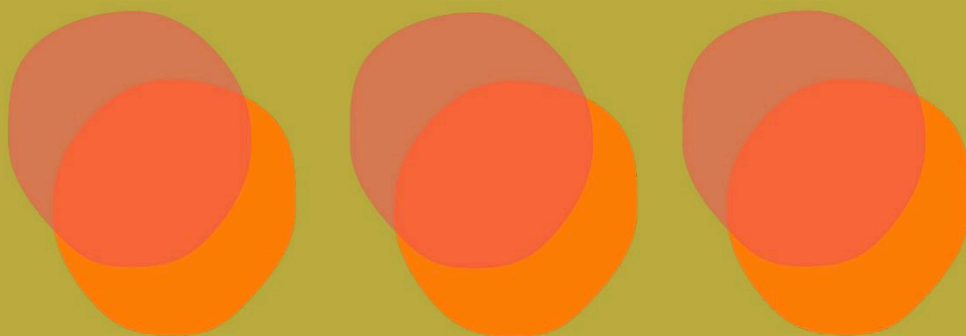
Robert Marten  
Scientist  
[martenr@who.int](mailto:martenr@who.int)

### Alcohol Research Group

Pamela Trangenstein  
Scientist  
[ptrangenstein@arg.org](mailto:ptrangenstein@arg.org)

Tom Greenfield  
Scientific Director  
[tgreenfield@arg.org](mailto:tgreenfield@arg.org)





## Announcement

### International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH) Special issue: Advancing Public Health by Alcohol Control: International Perspectives

IJERPH is a peer-reviewed scientific journal that publishes original articles, critical reviews, research notes, and short communications in the interdisciplinary area of environmental sciences and public health. A call for papers has been launched for a special issue "Advancing Public Health by Alcohol Control: International Perspectives."

Message from the Guest Editors, Pamela Trangenstein and Tom Greenfield

Advanced studies of alcohol control policies are critical for designing, enacting and enforcing effective alcohol policies and other environmental measures to reduce alcohol consumption and the toll of related problems. We seek contributions considering both alcohol's chronic and acute harms to the individual, and harms to others. We seek papers that address impacts of alcohol control and environmental measures that promise to reduce the public health burden of alcohol problems from an international perspective. Papers could cover multiple or single national policies, state or provincial policies, or even organizational policies, such as workplace and military alcohol policies to inform international efforts to reduce alcohol's harms. In addition to specific policy appraisals, we are interested in reviews, conceptual work, and simulations that help identify mechanisms of policy action. Last, we know even less about the policy and legislative development process--locally, nationally, and internationally--and papers addressing this important domain of facilitators and barriers are also encouraged.

Submission deadline: 10 March 2022. Find more about the special issue and submission details [here](#). Pre-submission inquiries to the Special Issue meeting the criteria for mentees will be invited to apply for the "Scientific Research and Writing Mentorship Initiative."