The journal *Global Social Welfare: Research, Policy, and Practice* invites manuscripts for a special issue on “Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Implementation Research in Low-and-Middle Income Countries (LMICs)”.

**Background & Rationale for the Special Issue**

CAMH constitutes a significant global burden of health, yet significant gaps continue to exist in mental health care in LMICs. Although World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested numerous strategies to address mental health burden in LMICs, most efforts have primarily focused on adults. Despite increasing knowledge in implementation of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) and mental health system strengthening strategies for adult mental health, empirical research on CAMH implementation remains limited. Consequently, our understanding of transportability of EBIs from high-income to low-income countries, contextual factors that influence implementation of CAMH interventions, and effective strategies in integrating EBIs into clinical, primary care, or community service settings in LMIC contexts remains limited.

The WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 (WHO, 2013) provides a roadmap to address mental health burden in LMICs and highlights four priority objectives for the global community to work towards (see Box below). In addition, the Proctor et al.’s (2009) conceptual model of implementation research provides a framework for studying components and processes of implementation (Figure 1). Both the WHO Action Plan and Proctor et al.’s frameworks represent tools that can integrate and organize the scholarship and practice of professionals working on CAMH implementation issues in LMIC settings.
Accordingly, we are seeking contributions on research evidence, methodological approaches, and novel perspectives around CAMH implementation in LMIC settings. We are especially interested in manuscripts that focus on WHO Action Plan priority areas and answer the following CAMH implementation research questions:

1) Considering multiple resource and mental health system barriers, what innovative theoretical frameworks or theories can be useful in guiding CAMH implementation research in LMIC contexts?
2) What are stakeholders’ (e.g., policymakers, affected individuals, health or non-specialist professionals, academicians, NGOs, frontline workers, caregivers) perspectives on CAMH system strengthening; feasibility, barriers and facilitators in CAMH implementation in schools, health, or community settings? What implementation strategies are likely to improve CAMH? What are priority research needs to strengthen implementation science on CAMH?
3) What implementation-effectiveness evidence exists to support EBI implementation in LMICs (considering types of mental health interventions and types of settings)? What implementation strategies (e.g., system, organization, leadership, human resource, individual strategies) support CAMH intervention implementation? What lessons have been generated to inform future implementation research?
4) What implementation research tools (e.g., implementation process evaluation tools, cost-effective implementation quality monitoring system) have been developed and tested in low-resource or LMIC settings?
5) What ethical issues should researchers consider when conducting CAMH studies in LMIC? What ethical standards can guide decision-making that will both promote high quality science and respect cultural values and variability in local contexts?

Manuscript formats can include original research, literature review, brief report, or perspective papers. Newly initiated research efforts, novel perspectives, or rigorous scientific studies that investigate CAMH implementation strategies, processes, or ecological contexts in LMIC settings are strongly encouraged.

Submission Guidelines:

Authors interested in contributing a manuscript for this special issue are recommended to submit an abstract by June 30th, 2018 to ensure that their manuscript is a good fit for this special issue. This information should include the following: (1) tentative title; (2) brief description of 500 words or less; (3) brief justification of how the proposed submission contributes to the aim of the special issue; and (4) author affiliations and contact information for corresponding author.

All letters of intent will be reviewed by July 15th, 2018, and invited contributors will be asked to submit a manuscript by December 1st, 2018.

Manuscripts will be sent out for full peer review in accordance with the standard peer review guidelines. Manuscripts should reflect the author(s) original work and be formatted according to current APA format as found in the APA Manual (6th Ed.). Manuscripts should be 20-25 pages, double spaced. For additional information on the journal and author guidelines, see http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/journal/40609

Abstracts and questions concerning the special issue can be directed to the Guest Editors, Dr. Sensoy Bahar: ozge.sensoybahar@wustl.edu or Dr. Keng-Yen Huang: Keng-Yen.Huang@nyumc.org with the subject line “Special Issue in Global Social Welfare: CAMH Implementation Research in LMICs.” Completed manuscripts should be submitted through the online submission system by the submission deadline, December 1st, 2018.
The WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 (WHO, 2013; http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA66/A66_R8-en.pdf?ua=1) provides a roadmap to promote mental well-being, prevent mental disorders, provide care, enhance recovery, promote human rights and reduce the mortality, morbidity, and disability for people with mental disorders. The Action Plan includes 4 objectives or priority areas:

1) To strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health
2) To provide comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services/interventions in community-based settings
3) To implement strategies for promotion and prevention in mental health
4) To strengthen information systems, evidence and research for mental health

![Implementation Research Methods](Figure 1)

Conceptual model of implementation research (Proctor et al., 2009)