

Dear Colleague,

In the past few years, our field has been in the spotlight. Because of the pandemic and collective traumatic events happening internationally, there is more attention to the issues of mental health and suicide than any other time during my lifetime. Despite many countries having had suicide prevention strategies for decades, we see a general lack of investment with suicide rates increasing in many settings and suicide-related inequities.

We have a unique opportunity to do things differently. Now is the time. As a field, we have been in a reactive position of waiting to recognize and respond to someone in crisis. We know something about what works for people known to be at risk, but the majority of people who die by suicide were not identified as at risk before death and did not make it in to see a mental health professional. We have to start thinking about this other 60%. What will it take to strengthen a public health approach to suicide prevention? While healthcare settings are important, we also need efforts to reach the majority of suicidal people where they are - in the community, on social media, in schools, workplaces, all settings that we have not been able to fully engage and permeate. We know what works but unfortunately, currently, most people who are suicidal will never receive an evidence-based practice.

Worldwide, there is a problem with the translation of evidence to action. This will be a mission of the next generation of suicide prevention researchers. Initiatives in this area could involve programs and policies to enhance economic opportunities and education to reduce stigma and enhance help-seeking while reducing ready access to firearms and other lethal means.

The IASR board is currently focused on expanding membership and co-hosting educational activities in collaboration with leading organizations, including the International Association for Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. For updates on upcoming events, visit the IASR website, and you can also access previous webinars [here](#). Lastly, we encourage all members to submit videos or papers for member spotlights on our website by sending them to communications@suicide-research.org.

Thank you,
Holly Wilcox

