

Dear Readers,

We are also pleased to bring to you a report on the editorial titled "[Reducing the risks of nuclear war — the role of health professionals](#)" published in the Oct-Dec 2023 issue of the *IJME*, along with 153 journals across the world. The report has been put together by one of the authors of the editorial, Dr Chris Zielinski, for IPPNW and WAME. We hope you find the report insightful and further help appreciate the significance of this initiative of publishing editorials on this issue of global concern simultaneously in wide ranging journals from across the world.

## **Report on the editorial**

### **"Reducing the risks of nuclear war—the role of health professionals"**

Chris Zielinski, 6 October 2023

Dear Editor,

This is to provide you with a brief report on the project on publishing an **editorial on "Reducing the risks of nuclear war—the role of health professionals"** in journals around the world, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Hiroshima bomb on 6 August.

The editorial was the brainchild of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), with the endorsement of the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME). Journals that joined the project appeared to be enthusiastic and were uniformly helpful as regards administration – which was substantial, given that this was a project with 18 authors, and the administration had to be repeated for each of the 153 journals. So **our heartfelt thanks go out to all journal editors and administrators for this, and for providing Open Access and granting us APC waivers.**

**Altogether 153 journals agreed to publish the editorial** in the allotted time frame. These journals were based in at least 34 countries. The editorial was published mainly in English, but Arabic, Croatian, Dutch, French and Spanish translations were also in evidence. The full list of journals that published the editorial is available here: <https://www.bmj.com/content/full-list-authors-and-signatories-nuclear-risk-editorial-august-2023>.

Not only was it published in many journals, but **it was being read**. For example, the editorial published in JAMA was "in the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric" (see the infographic at the end of this report). The one published by the American Journal of Psychiatry was selected to appear in the [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\) Showcase](#) on Kudos, which ensures that the editorial "reaches more people - not only academics, but also 1000s of influential researchers, policy makers, journalists and funders worldwide."

**The project was widely reported in analog and digital media.** As an example, in the Netherlands, Dr Marcel Olde Rikkert, Editor-in-Chief of the Dutch Journal of Medicine, and one of the co-authors of the editorial, released a podcast on the project. This was picked up by the national media and press (for those who read Dutch, see: <https://nos.nl/artikel/2485291-medische-wereld-verenigt-zich-tegen-dreiging-inzet-kernwapens> and <https://eenvandaag.avrotros.nl/item/waarom-juist-artsen-waarschuwen-voor-risico-op-nucleaire-oorlog-wij-zien-de-rampzalige-gevolgen-van-kernrampen-als-eerste/>). Marcel was interviewed both on national radio (450 000 listeners) and on a national television news report at prime time (1.2–1.4

million watchers). “Afterwards I received a lot of positive comments from colleagues on the global joint forces, and the social media discussion was very active.”

A similar interest was found in a number of countries, and the editorial continues to attract favourable comment. Apart from comment, however, **the editorial also had a very practical effect**. Work was underway at the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria, where IPPNW staff were attending the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). This was the first of three planned sessions that will be held prior to the 2026 Review Conference.

According to IPPNW Program Director Chuck Johnson, “This editorial is benefiting us in so many ways and is giving us an enhanced entree in working with diplomats, and others in civil society... We have been distributing the Lancet copy as we advocate for the inclusion of language in the chair's final summary document for demilitarizing nuclear power plants in conflicts...”

Clearly, there are real, practical benefits in this kind of collective speech. Chuck Johnson is working to build consensus that WHO should update its 1987 report on the health and medical impacts of nuclear weapons and nuclear war, and has used the editorial to begin conversations with delegations on this initiative. “The timing of all of these actions happening simultaneously has stretched us out,” he said, “But we are consequently able to use this editorial to very good effect already, when it is fresh.”

So a great shout out of thanks to you for participating in this unique project, and an ongoing invitation to participate in future activities along these lines. **You will have recently received an invitation to publish an editorial on climate change and health, the third in our annual series, this one focusing on treating the biodiversity crisis and climate change as a single crisis, and calling for WHO to declare climate change a global emergency. If you haven't already, please join this project as well, and plan to publish the editorial.**

More broadly, we are discussing establishing **a consortium of journals to put this kind of multi-journal editorial work on a more stable and formal footing**. We will keep the number of editorials low – two or three a year, with a primary focus on climate issues – and will be writing to you again when the idea has crystallized.

With best wishes,

Chris Zielinski, for IPPNW and WAME

# Editorial “in the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric”

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an Altmetric article page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://jamanetwork.altmetric.com/details/152241945/news>. The page title is "Reducing the Risks of Nuclear War—The Role of Health Professionals" and it is an overview of attention for an article published in JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, August 2023.

The main feature is a circular attention score of 131, represented by a blue and red ring. Below this, a box states: "In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric".

On the left, a section titled "Mentioned by" lists: 8 news outlets, 108 tweeters, and 1 Facebook page. Below that, "Readers on" lists 3 Mendeley.

The main content area is titled "SUMMARY" and shows that Altmetric has seen 8 news stories from 8 outlets. The stories are:

- Medscape**: **Global Health Professionals Must Continue to Prevent Nuclear War** (28 Aug 2023). Article by George D. Lundberg, MD. "On August 6, 1945, the United States destroyed Hiroshima, Japan, with the first atomic bomb ever used in..."
- ChosunBiz**: **랜싱 등 의학저널 100곳 "핵 재앙 심각성 알고 핵무기 폐기해야"** (07 Aug 2023). Article by Biz Chosun. "지난 1일 전세계 주요 의학학술지 편집자 18인이 100여 개 학술지를 통해 '현재 핵 재앙의 위험은 매우 심각하고 점점 커지고 있으며 인류를 지키려면 모든 핵을 폐기하도록 해야 한다'는 내용의 공동 사설을 발표했다."
- Yahoo! News**: **Armes nucléaires : une centaine de revues médicales avertissent d'une menace "grandissante"** (03 Aug 2023). Article by Yahoo! News. "Une centaine de journaux médicaux à travers le monde, dont les plus prestigieux, ont lancé jeudi un rare appel commun à agir de..."
- EurekAlert!**: **Reducing the risks of nuclear war—the role of health professionals** (01 Aug 2023). Article by ScienMag. "About The Editorial: In this editorial, JAMA and JAMA Network journals join journals worldwide to call on health professionals..."
- REGIO.com**: **Mas de 100 revistas médicas de todo el mundo advierten sobre el peligro de una guerra nuclear** (06 Aug 2023). Article by EL REGIO. "A medida que nos acercamos al aniversario de Hiroshima, más de 100 revistas médicas, algunas prestigiosas, han publicado un..."
- BFM TV.**: **Armes nucléaires: une centaine de revues médicales avertissent d'une menace "grandissante"** (03 Aug 2023). Article by BFM TV. "Selon ces revues, les armes nucléaires posent une menace "importante" pour l'humanité et doivent être complètement éliminées."
- EurekAlert!**: **Reducing the risks of nuclear war—the role of health professionals** (01 Aug 2023). Article by EurekAlert!. "JAMA About The Editorial: In this editorial, JAMA and JAMA Network journals join journals worldwide to call on health..."