In 2008, the Multiple Health Behavior Change Special Interest Group of the Society of Behavioral Medicine published a Special Issue of Preventive Medicine that outlined how Multiple Health Behavior Change (MHBC) research represents a major opportunity for the future of preventive medicine and health promotion. Since the publication of that special issue, MHBC research has steadily increased in sophistication, relevance, and impact. However, as outlined in a Prochaska, et al. (2009) and in the NIH funding opportunity announcement focusing on comorbid health conditions and chronic diseases (2011), there needs to be a broader discussion and emphasis of the importance, implications and evidence for focusing on MHBC research, and implementation. Individuals with multiple health risk behaviors are the highest cost populations with increased health care and disability costs, and decreased productivity and represent the greatest risk for chronic disease, disability and premature death (Edington, 2001). Effectively treating two behaviors has been found to reduce medical costs by about $2000 per year (Edington, 2001). Consequently, targeting change in multiple risk behaviors can improve health outcomes, maximize health promotion efforts, and reduce health care costs.

This call for papers solicits high quality contributions representing state-of-the-science conceptual and research papers on core topics in multiple risk behavior research in clinical, community, and other real world settings, both nationally and internationally. Papers addressing relationships between multiple risks and multiple health behaviors; theories; methodological issues; intervention and program design; outcomes; service delivery and implementation; and future research are strongly encouraged. Selected manuscripts will be published together with invited commentaries in this special section of Translational Behavioral Medicine. In addition to empirical papers, case studies characterizing real world translation or implementation challenges, theoretical discussions and commentaries on research and policy challenges are of particular interest. Case studies highlight issues in the application of MHBC in a
real-world context. They may highlight practice and policy questions in need of research. Alternatively, they may describe innovative ways in which evidence-based practices have been implemented in under-resourced settings. Practice and Public Health Policies articles cover new events and trends in policies that affect MBC practitioners or the public. We also seek to publish reviews of practice tools related to MHBC. Examples of all article types can be found on our website.

Abstract submission to kevers@prochange.com before August 15 is highly encouraged but not required.

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