

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2022

Jordan Nutrition Innovation Lab (JNIL) First National Scientific Symposium Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan August 16-18, 2022

We are now accepting abstracts for the first Jordan Nutrition Innovation Lab (JNIL) National Scientific Symposium, “**Diets, Nutrition and Health in Jordan: Promoting Science-Based Actions to Support Mothers, Infants, and Children.**” The symposium will be held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan from August 16 to 18, 2022.

The objectives of the inaugural scientific symposium are to provide a forum for:

- Presenting cutting edge evidence and discussing its relevance to current and future programs and policies around maternal, infant, and young child health and nutrition (MIYCHN) in Jordan.
- Disseminating novel research findings from studies relating to MIYCN across the MENA region—for example, studies that focus on health and nutrition practices of pregnant and lactating women and/or infants and young children feeding, dietary patterns and diets within the context of the double burden of malnutrition.
- Sharing success stories and case studies on behavior change around breastfeeding, complementary feeding, diets of women of reproductive age and their reproductive health.
- Promoting engagement among policymakers, researchers, and program implementers, and other stakeholders such as private sector to link research and academia more effectively to real life policy and program development and implementation in Jordan.

The need to improve conditions for mothers, infants, and young children is critical in the context of the Government of Jordan’s priorities aimed at achieving the World Health Assembly targets and preventing the risk of non-communicable diseases. In addition to improved nutritional practices, it is crucial that Jordan supports early investment in human and institutional capacities to implement effective and sustained nutritional practices and linkages of evidence on maternal, infant, and young child nutritional practices to bolster awareness and knowledge exchange at the program and policy levels.

The inaugural symposium, supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will bring together government and non-government stakeholders, local, regional, and international scholars, academics researchers, students, and program specialists to promote sharing, understanding, and adoption of concrete evidence on maternal and young child nutrition and health in Jordan. During the three days, the symposium will make deliberations through invited plenary sessions, keynote addresses, and

policy dialogues as well as competed oral and poster presentation sessions to share cutting-edge science and evidence. The symposium will also provide an opportunity for local academics, students, and young professionals to participate in learning labs (short workshops) to enrich their knowledge of novel tools, methods, and metrics on MIYCN research and programs through leading scientists and program specialists in Jordan and abroad.

The symposium is organized by the Jordan Nutrition Innovation Lab at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University in collaboration with the University of Jordan (Faculty of Nursing, Medicine, Agriculture/Nutrition).

Call for Abstracts

The Jordan Nutrition Innovation Lab invites the submission of abstracts for the first national symposium, “Diets, Nutrition and Health in Jordan: Promoting Science-Based Actions to Support Mothers, Infants, and Children” on 16-18 August 2022. The symposium program will include invited paper sessions for which we are currently soliciting abstracts, as well as other sessions such as keynote speeches and research and panels, organized in collaboration with partner and co-hosting organizations. Submissions from Jordan researchers are strongly encouraged.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Submitted abstracts should meet the following requirements:

- **Authors:** Full names and surnames of all authors should be included, as well as other data requested during the submission process. Affiliation (Institution only) must be included correctly.
- **Title:** Concise, 30 words maximum in sentence case (not in capital or lower-case letters only). Please use only recognizable abbreviations.
- **Contents:** The following aspects must be included:
 - Background and objectives
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusions
 - Keywords: 5 keywords maximum
 - Conflict of Interest Disclosure (if any)
 - Further Collaborators (if any, including further co-authors if they exceed the permitted number)
- **Length:** Text length in the abstract body should not exceed 350 words.
- **Abbreviations:** Standardized abbreviations shall be used in the body of the abstract. When specific or unusual abbreviations are used, they shall appear in brackets after each complete term the first time they are used.

Please carefully review the abstract before submitting.

Symposium Themes

We welcome abstracts under the following broad research themes:

1. Nutrition transition with a focus on women of reproductive age and young children
 2. Maternal health, nutritional status, and diet quality
 3. Infant and young child nutritional status, feeding, health and diets
 4. Research around policies and programs targeting maternal, infant and young child nutrition
- Overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases
 - Food culture and lifestyle, and its role in the nutrition transition with a focus on maternal health and nutrition
 - Dietary practices at the household and individual level in Jordan and the nutrition transition
 - Diet quality during pregnancy and lactation
 - Socio-ecological and environmental determinants of nutritional status and/or diet quality in women of reproductive age
 - Nutritional and food security status in refugee populations (women of reproductive age, in pregnancy and/or lactation)
 - Impacts of COVID on maternal health and nutritional status (refugee and non-refugee situations)
 - Breastfeeding, breastmilk substitutes in Jordan: challenges, barriers, and opportunities
 - Baby Friendly Health Initiatives: status, challenges, barriers, and opportunities
 - Socio-ecological and environmental determinants of infant and young child diets, nutrition and feeding practices
 - Nutrition social behavior change communications for improved breastfeeding and IYCF practices
 - Role of maternal knowledge, practices, and attitudes in supporting healthier diets
 - Impacts of COVID on IYCF
 - Diets in early life and nutritional status
 - The role of the food environment in supporting consumption of ultra-processed foods in early life
 - Policy and programmatic research with a focus on maternal, infant, and young child health and nutrition (MIYCHN).
 - Role of lactation counseling to support early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding at population scale
 - Role of health care providers in supporting MIYCHN

Standards of Evidence

Abstracts are invited to be submitted for review using the following types of research and study designs:

1. Directly addressing the causal pathway includes efficacy and effectiveness research that can directly evaluate impact. Efficacy is the extent to which an intervention improves a condition when known to be delivered through a defined system. Effectiveness refers to the effects of intervention when delivered under usual program conditions. Both are best determined by the conduct of randomized field trials, which can vary in design and detail.
2. Pseudo-experimental designs, including non-random allocation and before-after evaluations, offer a lesser degree of evidence on cause and effect, but are often an only option.
3. Non-intervention evidence can offer strength in association that may be consistent with impact or raise hypotheses about the impact and modifiable risk factors.
4. Epidemiological approaches can link individual exposures to status or outcomes.
5. Marketing studies can track food product flow, value-added and present evidence of availability and access.
6. Ecological studies relate to community characteristics and associations that may reflect food security in an area.
7. Surveys provide cross-sectional descriptions of existing situations, status profiles and prevalence in a population.
8. Surveillance reveals trends in health and nutritional status, dietary availability, access and intake, over time, typically assessed as community panels or longitudinally in individuals.

How to Submit and Submission Deadline

Authors should submit abstracts through the electronic submission portal by 15th May 2022. For more information, [visit our website here](#). Queries can be directed to the following address: jnilsymposium@gmail.com.

Selection Process

Abstracts will be reviewed by an expert panel and selected for either oral or poster presentations based on the scientific quality and relevance of the research to the themes above. Abstracts on research that is in progress or do not include data/findings will be considered only for poster presentations only.

[Submit an abstract via the electronic submissions portal now!](#)