Translational Behavioral Medicine
Special Issue Call for Abstracts:
Integrated Behavioral Health: Innovations to Achieve Population Impact

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This special issue of Translational Behavioral Medicine (https://academic.oup.com/tbm), a publication of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, solicits papers focusing on research into various methods for integrating behavioral health services into diverse settings including primary care, general medical settings, and community-based settings. Common behavioral health conditions like depression and anxiety account for a large percentage of primary care visits and consume large amounts of health care expenditures, especially when not effectively treated. We have an array of evidence-based pharmacologic and behavioral treatments for these conditions, yet very few people who need it receive treatment in a specialty behavioral health setting, even when referred by a primary provider. However, primary care settings are rarely able to offer non-pharmacologic treatments and less likely to meet minimally acceptable standards of care. For this special issue, we plan to publish original, high-impact research and systematic reviews providing insights into innovative methods for effectively integrating mental health services into non-specialty care settings that achieve significant clinical results at the population level, both international and domestic. This includes medical and community-based settings as well as interventions that effectively engage peers, family members, and other social systems to support and extend care. The behavioral health conditions of interest include but are not limited to those that carry the greatest population disease burdens: depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorders. Examples of cutting-edge issues of high interest include research focused on provider and system barriers to integrated care implementation, interventions to improve use of innovative treatments, disparities in access to care and quality of treatment, the intersection of behavioral health disorders and complex chronic conditions as it affects regimen adherence, health services organization and quality of care, policy effects, innovative methods using health information and mHealth technologies, and personalized/precision medicine. With an eye toward population impact, scholarship in this area should guide and inform mental health, general medical, and community-level policy as it relates to integration of mental health services into diverse health systems and community agencies. We are especially interested in reports of research in the following areas:

Prevention and treatment of common mental health conditions through integration with primary care, general medical, or community-based settings.

- Advancing new conceptual models and measures of integrated care and the socioecological environment;
- Evaluation of pragmatic trials, utilization of adaptive study design, implementation strategies;
- Efforts to identify people at risk for common mental health conditions in non-specialty care settings and/or interventions to avert acute episodes through lifestyle approaches;
- Adaptations of evidence-based preventive interventions, especially for use with underserved populations.

Prevention and treatment for comorbid mental health and chronic medical conditions and for populations routinely underserved by behavioral health providers.

- Interventions to integrate depression care into other medical management processes;
- Interventions promoting behavioral care of comorbid mental health and complex medical conditions, including adherence to self-management regimens;
- Integrating behavioral medicine interventions to promote better mental health outcomes within non-specialty medical and community-based organizations.

Policy and systems innovations to disseminate and implement evidence-based behavioral health integration.

- Payment innovations (bundled case rates, value-based payment, Medicare G codes) to cover and provide incentives for evidence-based integrated care;
- Technologies to facilitate care management and communication, case tracking and population health management, and quality evaluation and reporting;
- Sustaining initial gains through novel applications of funding, technology, and program.

Abstract Submission Deadline: December 15, 2018

Potential authors must submit an abstract of 250 words or less to the guest editors. Each abstract will be reviewed and, if approved, permitted to submit a full manuscript for consideration under rigorous peer review. Abstract and all questions should be directed to dbowen@uw.edu. Please indicate in the subject line of your email TBM Special Issue on “Implementing Behavioral Health.” This issue is tentatively scheduled to appear in early 2020.