



## Advances in Responses of Community Members to Individuals at Risk of Suicide

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### Message from the Guest Editors

The reactions of community members to someone who is experiencing distress can have a major influence on mental health outcomes as well as future formal and informal help-seeking. This explains the increase in suicide prevention programming that concentrates on training community members to intervene with peers in distress. Yet, training approaches may lead to unsatisfactory, unsustainable, and/or inequitable change in community members' knowledge and behavior to support peers in distress. Innovative training approaches are certainly necessary to address these outstanding issues. Relatedly, the informal network of help-giving that exists in communities needs to be better understood because professional help-seeking may not be the best solution for everyone.

This Special Issue is focused on generating new knowledge to identify: how people communicate about suicide; how people react to fellow community members experiencing emotional distress; personal, relationship, community, and environmental factors that help shape suicidal communications and community members' reactions; intervention/prevention programs that seek to change community members' reactions.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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