

Editorial

Editorial for First Issue of Health Economics & Finance

Mustafa Z. Younis

School of Public Health, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS 39217, USA

How To Cite: Younis, M.Z. Launching the Journal of Health Economics & Finance. *Health Economics & Finance* 2025, 1(1), 1.

1. Introduction

We are pleased to announce the launch of the Journal of *Health Economics & Finance (HEF)*, an international, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to advancing scholarship at the intersection of health, economics, and finance. The *HEF* provides a platform for rigorous empirical and theoretical research that informs policy, practice, and academic debate in these domains.

2. Scope of the journal

The *HEF* was established in response to the growing global demand for robust, policy-relevant evidence on health system performance, financing mechanisms, and the economic forces shaping population health. As countries confront rising healthcare costs, demographic transitions, the burden of chronic disease, and widening inequities, the need for timely, interdisciplinary research has never been greater.

The journal welcomes studies addressing among others the following areas:

- Health insurance markets, coverage expansion, and financing reforms
- Budgeting, resource allocation, and financial management in health systems
- Cross-country health system comparisons and quality-of-life assessments
- Economic evaluation, including cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and budget-impact analyses
- Long-term care financing and the economics of aging populations
- Applications of artificial intelligence and digital innovation in health economics and forecasting
- Pharmaceutical economics, including pricing, reimbursement, and regulatory issues
- Health equity, welfare economics, and social determinants of health
- Governance, accountability, and the broader political economy of health

Through these themes, *HEF* seeks to promote evidence that strengthens health system resilience, efficiency, and fairness.

3. Background and Vision

The mission of *HEF* is to foster rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship that bridges theory and real-world policy. Global health systems are undergoing rapid transformation driven by digital innovation, epidemiologic change, migration, economic uncertainty, and shifting political landscapes. In this context, the journal aims to illuminate complex challenges and offer insights that support informed decision-making.

The *HEF* is committed to:

- Encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration among economists, public health specialists, health services researchers, data scientists, and social scientists
- Elevating voices from low- and middle-income countries to enhance global equity in knowledge production
- Supporting methodological diversity, including quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods, econometric, and theoretical approaches
- Promoting innovation in areas such as digital health financing, AI-driven management, and novel care models



4. Unique Features and Contribution Types

The *HEF* distinguishes itself through:

- A strong global orientation that reflects diverse socioeconomic and health system contexts
- A clear focus on policy relevance and decision-impact research
- Emphasis on emerging topics such as AI-enabled health management, value-based care, and pharmaceutical market innovation
- A rapid, fair, and transparent peer-review process with quarterly online publication
- A commitment to constructive scholarly debate through commentaries, responses, and letters

The journal welcomes:

- Original research articles
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Methodological papers introducing new analytical tools
- Policy commentaries and perspectives
- Letters to the editor

Together, these contributions will help build a dynamic and inclusive scholarly community dedicated to improving health and financial outcomes globally.

5. Engagement of Authors, Reviewers, and Editors

The *HEF* strives to provide a supportive environment for authors, reviewers, and editors. We warmly invite scholars to share their latest work with the journal. Our editorial team is committed to ensuring scientific integrity and excellence by offering transparent and constructive feedback that helps authors strengthen their manuscripts and enjoy a rewarding publication experience.

6. Outlook

Our editorial board includes experts from diverse disciplines, ensuring comprehensive and unbiased evaluation of all submissions. With collective effort, *HEF* aims to become a leading journal in its field. We look forward to your engagement and contributions as we work toward the journal's continued and rapid growth.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Use of AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

No AI tools were utilized for this paper.