



**EIPHP**

**EUROPEAN INSTITUTE  
OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
POLICY**



## **Report on scientific and project activities**

**LLC “European Institute  
of Public Health  
Policy”**

**for 2023**

## Contents

<b>RESUME .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RESEARCH AND PROJECTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
DETAILS OF RESEARCH AND PROJECTS .....	4
THEMATIC DIRECTIONS.....	5
POPULATION GROUPS .....	5
RELEVANCE AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION.....	5
METHODOLOGY .....	5
COMMUNITY VALUE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS .....	5
TABLE 1 LIST OF RESEARCHES AND PROJECTS.....	6
<b>TRAININGS AND EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
DETAILS OF TRAININGS AND EDUCATION .....	7
TABLE 2 LIST OF TRAININGS.....	9
<b>PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>13</b>
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.....	13

# RESUME

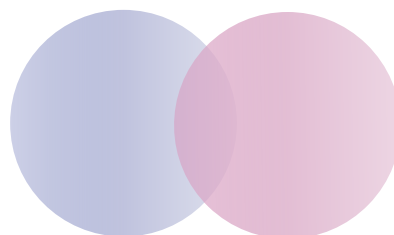


The LLC “European Institute of Public Health Policy” (EIPHP) is a leading research organization in Ukraine, specializing in the field of public health. Its main areas of activity include research and projects. EIPHP’s focus and priorities are directed towards addressing challenges in public health, achieving harmony between organizational requirements, personal needs, and contextual factors, and establishing, maintaining, and enhancing optimal procedures and practices in the decision-making process.

In 2023, EIPHP undertook nine studies and two projects, of which six hold international significance, encompassing various aspects of health and addiction treatment, including the integration of HIV, mental health, and addiction treatment services. Of these, four studies and one project have been completed, while the remaining five studies and one project are set to continue into 2024.

The institute conducted 16 training sessions aimed at mental health support, medical worker education, and specialist training under WHO programs. It maintains active participation in five working groups of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Additionally, EIPHP published 10 research papers, covering a broad spectrum of treatment and care in contexts of addiction, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, as well as the impacts of COVID-19 and war.

The primary challenges faced by EIPHP relate to the diverse demands in public health, especially those arising from war, necessitating prompt responses and comprehensive planning.

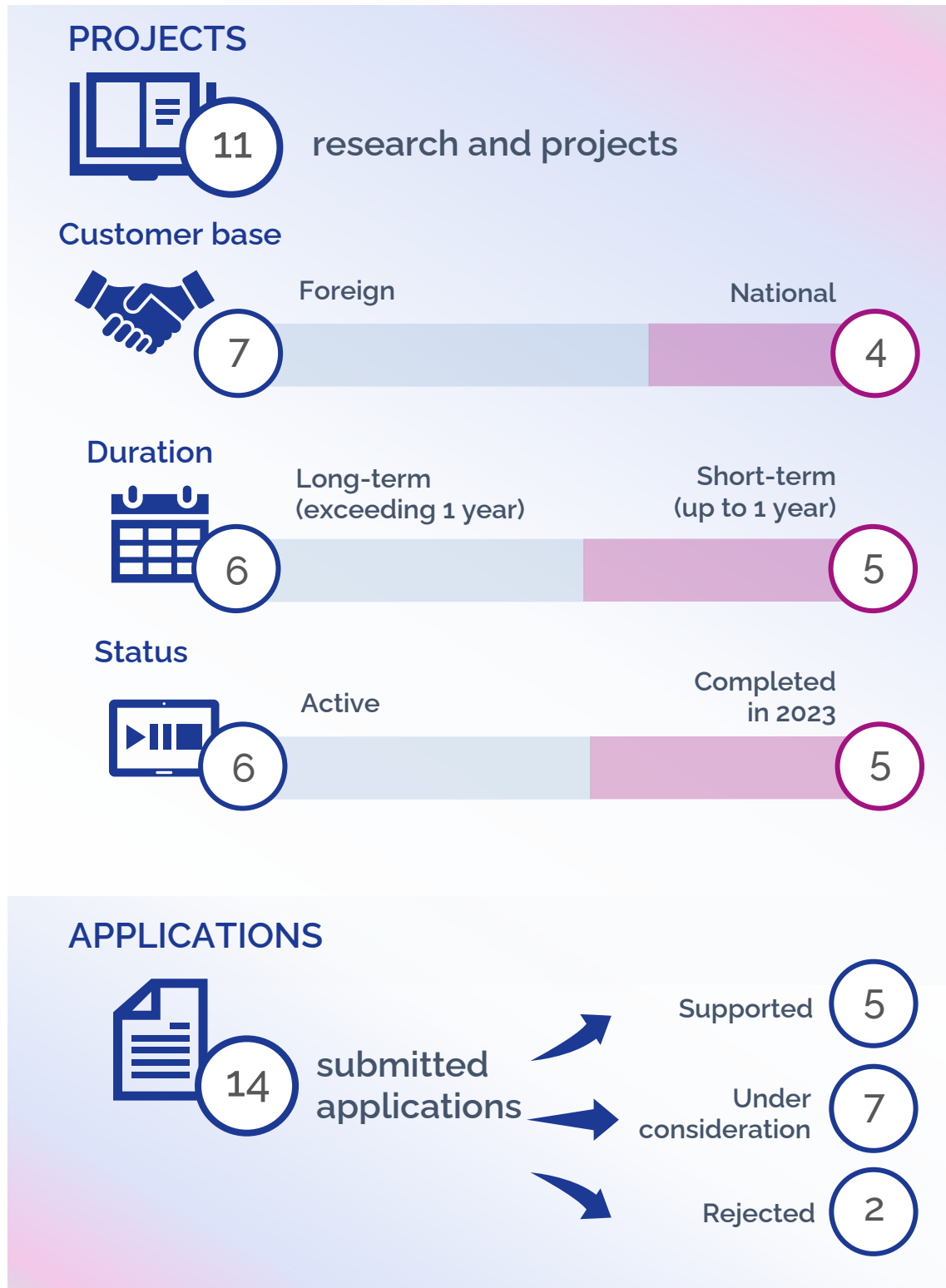




# RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

During 2023, EIPHP implemented **11** projects and research initiatives in the field of healthcare. **7** of these were of international importance and were focused on addressing current issues in public health (see Table 1).

## Details of research and projects



# RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

## Thematic directions

- **Health Care in Places of Deprivation of Liberty**

The "ExMAT," "Matlink," and "Hecht" projects focused on issues related to HIV infection and Substance Abuse-Related Addiction (SAR) among inmates. These projects demonstrated significant advancements in the development of shared decision-making models, treatment approaches, and the integration of health services.

- **Mental Health**

The "Pact" and "Mental Health Alliance" projects centered on mental health, particularly among populations affected by war and key demographic groups. These initiatives were notable for developing support systems and expanding access to mental health services.

- **Innovations in HIV Self-Testing**

The "100% Life Self-testing" and "FHI 360 Demonstration Project" highlighted the progression of self-testing methods for HIV. These projects played a crucial role in broadening the scope of testing and enhancing awareness among key groups.

## Population groups

Significant attention is given to various population groups: people living with HIV (PLHIV), prisoners, the elderly (aged 50 and over), and individuals at high risk of infection.



## Relevance and practical application

All projects were centered on contemporary health issues, particularly HIV and mental health. Their outcomes hold substantial potential for enhancing the quality of life and health of key population groups, especially under wartime conditions. The implementation of innovative approaches in self-testing and mental health care significantly improved access to medical services.

## Methodology

The implementation of the projects predominantly utilized mixed research methods, encompassing both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This allowed for a more thorough analysis and evaluation of the projects' impacts. The application of innovative models and strategies, such as the shared decision-making model in 'ExMAT' and adaptive interventions in 'PORADA', demonstrates the organization's high level of technical expertise and creativity.

## Community value and future prospects

The projects encompassed a broad spectrum of issues, highlighting the importance of integrated approaches in healthcare. These initiatives significantly contributed to engaging and supporting vulnerable population groups, bearing considerable social significance.

# RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Table 1 List of researches and projects

No. z/p	Short name	Full name	Status at the end of 2023
1.	ExMAT	Expanding MAT in Ukraine (ExMAT)	Active
2.	IMPACT	Integrating Addiction Treatment and HIV Services into Primary Care Clinics in Ukraine	Active
3.	Matlink	MATLIINK - UA: Providing access to opioid agonist therapy (OAT) methadone/buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence of persons registered in the Criminal Executive Inspection of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine	Completed
4.	Hecht	Integration of TB, HIV, and drug treatment services in the penitentiary system of Ukraine	Active
5.	100% Life "Primary Link"	The impact of war on primary health care facilities providing HIV services	Completed
6.	PROST	Adapting Peer Navigation for Out-of-Care Older Persons with HIV in Ukraine	Active
7.	Pact	Public Health System Recovery and Resilience Activity	Active
8.	100% Life "Self-testing"	Evaluation of the results of the implementation of the self-testing intervention within the framework of the HealthLink project	Completed
9.	FHI 360 "Demonstration Project"	Assessment of the feasibility and acceptability of the Mylan HIV self-testing system to increase opportunities for HIV self-testing among key populations and their partners in Ukraine (Community in Action)	Completed
10.	"Mental Health" Alliance	Mental health of key groups: needs and possibilities of obtaining appropriate services in the conditions of war in Ukraine	Completed
11.	PORADA	Adapting and piloting a decision-aid intervention (PORADA) to engage older people with HIV (OPWH) in HIV care and treatment programs	Active

# TRAININGS AND EDUCATION

## Details of trainings and education

- During 2023, **16** trainings were held within the ExMAT, Pact, 100% Life "Primary link" projects, IMPACT, PROST, and FHI 360 "Demonstration project".
- The main focus was on **mental health and support for vulnerable groups**, as well as on training health workers and psychosocial care professionals in low-intensity interventions.
- Other areas of training included: training for facilitators under the WHO Self-Help Plus and mhGAP programs; training of interviewers and other personnel for conducting research; training of psychologists, educators and specialists who work with people suffering from HIV and in the field of addiction to psychoactive substances.
- **6** employees took part in **8** educational events, which contributed to improving the qualifications and competence of the staff.



This series of trainings, organized by EIPHP, reflects a comprehensive approach to supporting health and well-being in Ukraine, particularly in light of challenges related to war and HIV/AIDS. The trainings encompass a wide array of topics, ranging from working with medical professionals to aiding vulnerable populations.

# TRAININGS AND EDUCATION

The 'Children and War: Teaching Healing Techniques' training underscores the organization's commitment to providing psychological support to children impacted by war, highlighting the significance of addressing the psychological elements of crisis and conflict management.

Діти та війна



Trainings under the WHO Self-help Plus program and mhGAP are designed to train facilitators and trainers in effective management and treatment of mental disorders, particularly in post-conflict recovery contexts.

The Training for Peer-to-Peer Consultants "Features of Supporting HIV-Positive Clients aged 50+" and the Training for Field Staff of the site "Improving HIV Service Engagement for Older People in Ukraine by Peers" emphasize the focus on the unique needs of older people living with HIV.

50+



The CETA program trainings focus on equipping mental health professionals with skills to offer psychological support to those affected by the military conflict in Ukraine and dealing with severe stress. This program targets veterans and immigrants from eastern Ukraine.

Overall, these trainings demonstrate the organization's dedication to enhancing the quality of medical care and psychological support, as well as bolstering the capabilities of healthcare professionals in a dynamically evolving environment.



# TRAININGS AND EDUCATION

Table 2 List of trainings

N°	Name of the event	Participants	Venue	Date of holding
1	Training for recruiters - interviewers in the framework of the project "Expanding access to medical supportive treatment in Ukraine"	Recruiters - interviewers	Kyiv	07.08.2023
2, 3	Trainings "Children and War: Teaching Healing Techniques"	Psychologists, social workers, teachers working in the education system	Online	13-15.01.2023; 11, 18, 25.02.2023
4	Training for trainers (ToT) according to the WHO program "Self-help Plus"	Psychologists from focal areas	Kyiv	27.02.-02.03.2023
5	Trainings for facilitators under the WHO program "Self-help Plus"	Medical workers from the focal areas of the project	Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv, Odesa, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi	May-July 2023 (training series)
6	Training for trainers (ToT) on clinical management of mental disorders according to the mhGAP program	Psychologists from focal areas	Lviv	23.01.-27.01.2023
7	Trainings in the clinical management of mental disorders according to the mhGAP program	Primary care medical workers	Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv, Odesa, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi	February-September 2023 (training series)
8	Training for interviewers	Interviewers	Online	26.01.2023
9	Training for interviewers (Mykolaiv, Ivano-Frankivsk)	Interviewers	Online	10.03.2023
10	QI training	Medical staff	Lviv	25-26.03.2023
11	Training for interviewers (Lviv) qualitative part	Interviewers	Online	14.04.2023
12	Training for Peer-to-Peer Consultants "Features of Supporting HIV-Positive Clients aged 50+"	8 participants are potential Level Consultants	EIPHP office, offline	17-19.03.2023
13	Training for the field staff of the site "Improving HIV Service Engagement for Older People in Ukraine by Peers"	4 participants (site staff)		27.04.2023
14, 15	Trainings within the CETA program	Mental health and psychosocial support specialists	Kyiv	29.05-09.06.2023; 3-14.07.2023
16	Training for the team of the demonstration project "Community in action"	Project team	Online	12.07.2023

# PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS

Throughout 2023, EIPHP actively engaged in the activities of **5** working groups under the auspices of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MOH) and the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (PHC). Participation in these groups was instrumental in the collaborative development and execution of strategies and actions targeted at enhancing the healthcare sector.



**PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
CENTER**

Important aspects of the participation of the EIPHP organization in working groups included:

- Involvement of **5** EIPHP employees in these working groups, demonstrating the team's high level of engagement and commitment.
- Collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Health and PHC in fields pertaining to public health and medical research.
- Facilitation of the exchange of experience and best practices in healthcare.
- Development and implementation of strategies and programs aimed at enhancing public health and treatment.



Participation in working groups showcases a unified team prepared to collaborate with key partners in achieving significant health objectives.

# PUBLICATIONS

During 2023, based on the results of research and projects, **10** articles in peer-reviewed international journals were published by EIPHP employees (see Appendix List of publications).

One of the primary research focuses is on **the treatment of addiction to psychoactive substances during the war**, caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The publication by Morozova O. and colleagues (Int J Drug Policy, 2023) explores lessons learned during this crisis, emphasizing the importance of understanding and addressing immediate treatment and rehabilitation needs.

The organization is also investigating **the integration of health services for those with depression into clinics providing opiate therapy**. Machavariani E. and co-authors (Contemp Clin Trials, 2023) examine the design and outcomes of a hybrid cluster-randomized trial of this approach, noting its advantages and feasibility.

Addressing **drug use mortality**, the publication by Dumchev K. et al. (BMC Infect Dis, 2023) analyzes causes and risk factors in Indonesia, Ukraine, and Vietnam. This significant study aids in identifying strategies to reduce mortality and enhance the effectiveness of existing programs.

A key research topic of the organization is **the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable groups**, including drug users. Carroll JJ. and co-authors (Int J Drug Policy, 2023) assess the pandemic's effects on structural inequalities and social conditions for people with HIV who use drugs in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Luoma JB. and colleagues (Lancet Reg Health Eur, 2023) present the results of a randomized clinical trial of **an intervention for people with HIV who use drugs**. By evaluating the intervention's effectiveness and acceptability, the study illuminates ways to improve health and quality of life for this group.

Several publications also address the issues of **stigma and discrimination among people with HIV and drug addicts**. Ovcharzak J. and others (AIDS Behav, 2023) explore the relationship between stigma and participation in health programs among HIV-positive women in Ukraine.

A crucial research area is the development and adaptation of interventions **to optimize treatment and support in war contexts**. The ADAPT-ITT34 project, detailed in one publication, aims to develop and test PORADA - an intervention for people with HIV over 50 regarding the disclosure of their status.

These publications demonstrate EIPHP's high level of expertise and commitment to addressing current health challenges in Ukraine, especially among vulnerable populations. An evidence-based approach underscores key aspects of treatment, prevention, and social support, contributing to the enhancement of medical care quality and the lives of the target groups.



# ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

In 2023, EIPHP achieved significant success in the implementation of its research and project initiatives. The organization successfully completed four studies and one project, and continued its work on five other studies and one project. A notable accomplishment was its active participation in five working groups of the MOH, contributing to the development and implementation of effective healthcare strategies. EIPHP also published 10 scientific papers covering a wide range of issues in addiction, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, the impact of COVID-19, and war, demonstrating a high level of research activity and the organization's contributions to addressing global health challenges.



The year 2023 presented considerable challenges for EIPHP, the foremost being **the need for prompt responses to various public health demands and complex planning in wartime conditions**. Special attention was devoted to addressing issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on vulnerable population groups. EIPHP also encountered challenges in coordinating research work and allocating resources, necessitating flexibility and an innovative approach to project and research management. Financial challenges and the need to attract additional resources also became a significant aspect of EIPHP's work, as the organization strove to ensure the continuity and quality of its projects and research under difficult conditions.



# APPENDICES

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1. **Morozova O**, Ivanchuk I, Gvozdetska O, Nesterova O, Skala P, Kuzin I, **Dumchev K**. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2023 Jul;117:104062. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104062. Epub 2023 May 20. PMID: 37216758 Review. Treatment of opioid use disorder in Ukraine during the first year of the Russia-Ukraine war: Lessons learned from the crisis.
2. Machavariani E, Bromberg DJ, **Dumchev K**, **Dvoriak S**, **Zeziulin O**, **Morozova O**, Esserman D, **Pykalo I**, **Saichuk N**, Ivasiy R, Haddad MS, Altice FL. *Contemp Clin Trials*. 2023 May 30;131:107248. doi: 10.1016/j.cct.2023.107248. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37263492. Design, implementation, and preliminary results of a type-2 hybrid cluster-randomized trial of integrating screening and treatment for major depressive disorder into specialty clinics providing opioid agonist therapies in Ukraine.
3. **Dumchev K**, Guo X, Ha TV, Djoerban Z, **Zeziulin O**, Go VF, Sarasvita R, Metzger DS, Latkin CA, Rose SM, Piwowar-Manning E, Richardson P, Hanscom B, Lancaster KE, Miller WC, Hoffman IF. *BMC Infect Dis*. 2023 May 11;23(1):319. doi: 10.1186/s12879-023-08201-3. PMID: 37170118 Free PMC article. Clinical Trial. Causes and risk factors of death among people who inject drugs in Indonesia, Ukraine, and Vietnam: findings from HPTN 074 randomized trial.
4. Deac AA, **Zaviryukha I**, **Rozanova J**, **Zeziulin O**, **Kiriazova T**, Shenoi S, Peycheva A, Solórzano de Souza R, Skipper H, Abubakar AA, Gustilo VB, Thornicroft G, Dellamura P, Rich KM, Earnshaw V, Bromberg DJ, Mamedova E, Yariy V. *Subst Use Misuse*. 2023 Jun 15:1-4. doi: 10.1080/10826084.2023.2212377. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37317994. Treatment System Adaptations during War: Lessons from Ukrainian Addiction Treatment Providers.
5. Carroll JJ, Rossi SL, Vetrova MV, Blokhina E, Sereda Y, Lioznov D, Luoma J, **Kiriazova T**, Lunze K. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2023 Jul;117:104060. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104060. Epub 2023 May 15. PMID: 37210965 Free PMC article. The impacts of COVID-19 on structural inequities faced by people living with HIV who inject drugs: A qualitative study in St. Petersburg, Russia.
6. Luoma JB, Rossi SL, Sereda Y, Pavlov N, Toussova O, Vetrova M, Bendiks S, **Kiriazova T**, Krupitsky E, Lioznov D, Blokhina E, Lodi S, Lunze K. *Lancet Reg Health Eur*. 2023 Mar 20;28:100611. doi: 10.1016/j.lanpe.2023.100611. eCollection 2023 May. PMID: 37180745 Free PMC article. An acceptance-based, intersectional stigma coping intervention for people with HIV who inject drugs-a randomized clinical trial.
7. Owczarzak J, Fuller S, Coyle C, Davey-Rothwell M, **Kiriazova T**, Tobin K. *AIDS Behav*. 2023 Jun;27(6):1914-1925. doi: 10.1007/s10461-022-03925-w. Epub 2022 Nov 28. PMID: 36441406 Free PMC article. The Relationship Between Intersectional Drug Use and HIV Stigma and HIV Care Engagement Among Women Living with HIV in Ukraine.
8. **Neduzhko O**, Saliuk T, Kovtun O, Semchuk N, Varetska O. Community-based HIV prevention services for transgender people in Ukraine: current situation and potential for improvement. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2023;23(1):631. Published 2023 Jun 14. doi:10.1186/s12913-023-09656-5
9. Bromberg DJ, Galvez de Leon SJ, Litz T, Azbel L, Liberman AR, Polonsky M, **Dvoriak S**, **Saichuk N**, Taxman F, Altice FL. Aligning public health and public safety: Probation as a touchpoint to identify and link patients with opioid use disorder to opioid agonist treatment. *PLOS Glob Public Health*. 2023 Nov 1;3(11):e0002349. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgph.0002349. PMID: 37910486; PMCID: PMC10619786.
10. **Karagodina O**, Kovtun O, **Filippovych M**, **Neduzhko O**. Qualitative study of barriers and facilitators to HIV detection and treatment among women who inject drugs during the war against Ukraine. *AIDS Res Ther*. 2023 Nov 13;20(1):80. doi: 10.1186/s12981-023-00578-0.