

Editorial

With publication of this issue of *Neuropsychology*, a new editorial team will assume leadership of the journal. Over the past six year term, Jim Becker and his team have seen a steady increase in the number of papers submitted to the journal, a strong indication of the importance of this journal for publishing neuropsychology research of the highest quality. The challenge of the new editorial team is not to “fix what isn’t broke,” but to implement changes that we believe are important to keep pace with the increasing diversity of the field and the needs of the readership. In addition to changing the colors of the cover, we have implemented editorial policies that should result in greater diversity of content through a wider range of publication venues.

The scientific field of neuropsychology has broadened, ranging from experiments in basic cognitive and experimental neuroscience conducted in healthy participants to research in patient populations designed to improve the effectiveness, range, and depth of clinical practice. The editorial team encourages submissions that match this diversity. In addition to our traditional commitment to publishing studies based on the lesion method, the editorial team would like to see expanded journal coverage of topics related to developmental neuropsychology, the role of genetics in neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders, rigorous structural and functional neuroimaging studies conducted in clinical and healthy populations, intervention and clinical outcome studies, and studies with direct relevance to neuropsychological practice.

Neuropsychology typically publishes original research or meta-analyses as full length Regular Articles. Beginning with this issue, the editorial team will consider three new article formats: Brief Reports, theoretical reviews, and case studies.

The Brief Reports format is reserved for innovative studies that can be communicated in a concise manner without sacrificing essential scientific details. This new format for *Neuropsychology* has become possible with the expanded availability of online publication of supplementary information. Examples of online information include expanded methodological details, supplementary figures and tables, and even raw data.

Neuropsychology will also consider submissions of reviews that present or discuss novel theoretical formulations or methodological perspectives of neuropsychology related topics, or evaluate competing theoretical perspectives on the basis of published data. Where possible, such reviews are encouraged to use a quantitative meta-analytic approach, but this is not required.

Finally, case studies will be considered if they raise or illustrate important questions that go beyond the single case and have heuristic value.

The editorial team strongly endorses the movement toward statistical reform in psychology, the importance of which is regularly acknowledged but the practice of which is less frequently implemented (cf. Cumming et al., 2007). Effect sizes should always be reported, along with confidence intervals, and these results should be interpreted. We encourage authors to move away from the long-entrenched reliance on the dichotomous decision-making of null-hypothesis significance testing. To this end, we have added the specific citation of the APA guidelines for statistical methods and reporting (Wilkinson et al., 1999) in the Instructions to Authors.

A major goal of the editorial team will be to continue the process of streamlining and improving efficiency of the article submission process begun during the tenure of the previous editorial team. All manuscripts submitted to *Neuropsychology* are submitted electronically. Authors can now expect to receive an editorial decision on average 45 days from manuscript submission. The editorial team would like to further reduce this time interval but recognize that peer reviewers often require time to prepare high quality critiques. Our overall goal is to provide fair, constructive, and timely reviews to authors.

Another area of improved efficiency is in the time from manuscript acceptance to date of publication. APA journals have recently moved to a rapid production schedule, with articles becoming ready for publication as soon as 60 days post-acceptance. Because of this rapid publication lag time, prepublication of articles on-line has no longer become necessary.

The cost of publishing color figures in *Neuropsychology* is shared by the authors and the publisher and is now clearly specified in the Instruction to Authors. Having competitive color publication costs is essential to the goal of expanding the range of articles in *Neuropsychology*, especially in the field of functional neuroimaging which relies heavily on the use of color figures.

In closing, *Neuropsychology* publishes articles from countries spanning the globe. The editorial team is committed to expanding our stature in the international scientific publishing community by encouraging

submissions from throughout the world. In this way, we can achieve our goal to make *Neuropsychology* a vehicle for the very best ideas and research in the field.—Stephen M. Rao, Editor; Deborah A. Fein, Associate Editor; Larry J. Seidman, Associate Editor; Daniel Tranel, Associate Editor

References

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