

EDITORIAL

2012 *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*

I am honored to be the new editor for *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* following in the footsteps of the three previous editors (Drs. Charles R. Schuster, Warren K. Bickel, and Nancy K. Mello), each of whom has served as an incredible role model and mentor to me over the years. It is with deep sadness that we report Dr. Schuster, the first editor of this journal, passed in 2010. However, his spirit and enthusiasm continue due to the many researchers and clinicians he inspired over his long, productive career.

The mission of this journal has always been to publish scientifically excellent research on psychopharmacology and substance abuse, with an emphasis on translational and interdisciplinary research. During their tenure, each editor strived to make *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* a leading journal in the field. However, as the field continues to rapidly advance, becoming ever more diverse and interdisciplinary, there is a need to expand and reframe the focus of *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* in order to maintain its high standard in the field.

Besides maintaining the high quality of research publications in this journal, I have set several specific goals for my tenure as editor. First, I would like to achieve a better balance in areas that are currently underrepresented in *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. For example, laboratory animal research is fundamental to psychopharmacology. Therefore, I want to encourage individuals to submit more manuscripts that involve laboratory animals, particularly those that provide a translational perspective or have direct clinical relevance. Other emerging research areas that would benefit from more exposure in *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* include stress, genetics (including behavioral genetics, epigenetics, and pharmacogenetics), and neuroimaging. As a first step in accomplishing this goal, I have selected several individuals who have expertise in these areas to serve as consulting editors and thank them for their support.

Another goal is to encourage the involvement of young investigators. I will continue to make concerted efforts to interact with young investigators, particularly by attending conference functions geared toward graduate students and early career investigators. In addition, I have deliberately expanded the editorial board to include individuals early in their career paths. I hope that this will not only give them the opportunity to serve an important role for the scientific community but that they will bring a fresh perspective to the review process and encourage their colleagues to submit quality manuscripts to *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*.

A third goal is to have more manuscripts address issues related to women and sex differences. Despite the fact that in 1990 the National Institute on Health mandated the inclusion of women in NIH-supported biomedical and behavioral research in humans, and expanded these guidelines in 1993, many studies still fail to include women. Moreover, even among those studies that include both men and women, most do not include sex as a variable in the analyses. Surprisingly, a similar lack of information on females or sex differences is prevalent among laboratory animal studies. Therefore, I will strive to remedy this oversight by requesting that authors indicate the male:female ratio in the abstract and encouraging authors to analyze and report sex differences in studies that have a sufficient number of both sexes to do so. Unfortunately, so many of us are caught up in controlling for a host of other variables (e.g., age, cigarette smoking history, and current psychopathology), and we often neglect a potential major variable: sex. Hopefully, these changes will encourage researchers to not only include both sexes but to strive to include a sufficient number to advance our understanding of the role that sex differences may play in all areas of psychopharmacology.

Lastly, I would like to broaden the scope of *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* to include articles that involve psychopharmacology beyond the area of substance abuse. Psychopharmacology is not just the study of recreational drugs, but it also involves the study of drugs to treat symptoms, such as pain, and various other psychological disorders. This goal may be the hardest to achieve, but if successful, will be rewarding.

Again, I hope that I can follow the lead of my predecessors in retaining *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* as a respected journal in the field, with the goal of making it even better. I want to thank everyone who has helped me during this transition year, including Nancy Mello, my dear friend and colleague, Anne Harmer, my manuscript coordinator, and all of the other staff at the APA Journals office who offer their wise assistance with promptness and gracefulness. Most importantly, I want to thank all of you who take time out of your busy schedules to provide timely and constructive reviews; without your support the journal would not be successful.

—Suzette M. Evans, Columbia University and the New York State Psychiatric Institute