Editorial

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I am honored to have been selected as the new Editor of the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* (*JCCP*). As a clinical scientist who is strongly dedicated to professional development over time, I have been guided by the importance of both stability and growth. Indeed, both adaptive responding to and active shaping of the environment have always served as my foundation and have guided my research, teaching, and clinical work. These same principles guide my vision as Editor of *JCCP*.

**Stability and Growth**

I view the journal’s role in the field as representing the most important, contemporary, cutting-edge clinical science in terms of both theory and methods. Indeed, *JCCP* has long been the premiere journal in clinical psychology, and preserving the stability of its status is critical. As such, I believe it is important to continue to publish articles that reflect the best possible science in terms of both theory and methods. At the same time we are maintaining these standards, *JCCP* must be open to growth in the face of a developing and changing field of clinical psychology by being both responsive to new developments, as well as taking an active role in contributing to shaping the field.

In the spirit of being responsive to the field, *JCCP* must provide an outlet for the variety of topics and issues that clinical psychologists view as important. It should not be a journal with a narrow focus, certainly not in spirit, and definitely not in practice. One of my goals as Editor will be to make sure that the scope and content of the journal reflect the current state of the field as broadly as possible. As such, I encourage submissions in all areas of clinical and clinical-health psychology, including intervention (prevention and treatment) outcome and process (randomized controlled trials [RCTs], effectiveness studies, mechanisms), nonintervention research that has clear implications for and/or is intended to contribute directly to the prevention or treatment of clinical problems (not simply etiology or descriptive pathology of abnormal behavior, which is more appropriate for the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*), and manuscripts detailing statistical methods with clear implications for clinical research.

In the spirit of balancing both responding and shaping, *JCCP* must be open to publishing work that reflects the range of both existing and new ways of thinking about clinical problems and treatments. And to push forward with shaping the field, *JCCP* must publish not just the tried-and-true, but must be an outlet for novel and innovative approaches to clinical issues, theory, and methods, supporting good ideas and innovation without sacrificing them for an insistence on traditional methods. In short, it must be a journal that can keep the field on track and at the same time lead it to think differently. As such, I encourage submissions that demonstrate new and creative ways of understanding, preventing, and treating clinical problems.

**Inclusiveness**

Implicit in my vision for the journal is a theme of inclusiveness. I find this particularly important with regard to issues of diversity. As Editor of *JCCP*, I will actively support the publication of high-quality research on clinically relevant issues central to diverse populations, on samples that include diverse individuals, and on treatments for diverse groups. Like my predecessor, Art Nezu, my definition of diversity is broad, emphasizing groups who have been stigmatized, marginalized, poorly understood, and/or underrepresented in psychological research based on age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, and physical disability. I am particularly interested in making sure that clinically relevant research on underrepresented groups continues to become part of the mainstream in psychology, as this has not and still is not fully the case (e.g., Cundiff, 2012; Leong, 2009). *JCCP* has been somewhat successful in publishing research on diverse groups, particularly with regard to racial and ethnic diversity and sexual orientation. I intend to continue in...
this tradition and hopefully expand in these areas and others as listed above. As such, I encourage submissions on these issues.

Another way in which JCCP has the potential to be inclusive is in fostering the integration of science and practice. Although the field has long spoken of the need to close the clinical-research gap, we certainly have not fully achieved it (e.g., Goldfried et al., 2014; Kazdin, 2008). Given its emphasis on assessment, treatment, and prevention, issues of central importance to both scientists and practitioners, JCCP has the potential to continue to play an important role in this regard. As Editor, I will work toward developing novel ways to reach both groups, through special sections or issues, and by encouraging direct discussion of practitioner-relevant issues in appropriate manuscripts. I encourage authors to address these issues in their manuscripts and to submit proposals for relevant special sections/issues.

Stability: What Will JCCP Continue to Expect?

JCCP will continue to hold high standards for publication. We expect authors to submit manuscripts that target significant clinical problems and issues, that have a solid theoretical foundation, and that are methodologically rigorous. Manuscripts must include appropriate statistical reporting of clinical significance (see Atkins, Bedics, McGlinchey, & Beauchaine, 2005; Fidler et al., 2005; Jacobson, Roberts, Berns, & McGlinchey, 1999; Jacobson & Truax, 1991; Kendall, Marrs-Garcia, Nath, & Sheldrick, 1999; Odgaard & Fowler, 2010), and clinical implications must be explicitly discussed. Manuscripts also must conform to appropriate reporting standards and guidelines (specifically, JARS and MARS; http://www.apa.org/pubs/authors/jars.pdf). Note that these reporting standards (JARS and MARS) are presently being updated, and once so, authors will be expected to follow the updated standards that will be referenced on the JCCP website.

JCCP largely publishes research that is empirical and quantitative in method. However, rigorous theoretical papers on topics of broad interest to the field of clinical psychology will be considered, as will critical analyses and meta-analyses of treatment approaches on topics of broad theoretical, methodological, or practical interest to the field of clinical psychology. We also will consider commentaries on previously published articles. As described in greater detail in the following section, we will not consider case studies unless they are methodologically rigorous single-case designs.

Specific requirements and instructions for authors can be found on the JCCP website (http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/ccp/?tab=4).

Growth: What Is New for the Journal?

We Are Moving to Monthly Issues

One very new occurrence is that, starting with this issue, JCCP will be publishing issues monthly. We will publish the same number of articles each year, but they will now be spread out over 12 issues rather than 6. This will allow manuscripts to appear online and in print more rapidly, increasing the speed of dissemination.

We Will Be Celebrating APA’s 125th Anniversary in 2017

Another new occurrence—albeit a one-time occurrence—is that 2017 is APA’s 125th Anniversary and JCCP will be publishing, over the course of this year, a series of articles honoring the anniversary. These articles were accepted in response to a call for papers last summer, and they all will speak to one or more of the following topics:

• Important areas of success within the field of clinical psychology, particularly highlighting lines of research that have improved the lives of many people
• The public significance or impact of clinical psychology
• Important changes in clinical psychology over last 125 years

We Are Further Strengthening Public Accessibility of Research Findings

One of Art Nezu’s important contributions during his time as Editor of JCCP was to institute a policy of including Public Health Significance statements for each article. These statements are designed to increase dissemination and usage by larger and diverse audiences. We are building on this important policy in an effort to make these statements even more public-friendly. As we now note on the JCCP website, these statements are meant to be informative and useful to any reader. They should provide a bottom-line, take-home message that is accurate and easily understood. In addition, they should be able to be translated into media-appropriate statements for use in press releases and on social media. The statements should not simply be sentences lifted
directly out of the manuscript. Along with others in the field (e.g., Eagleman, 2013; Kaslow, 2015; Nezu, 2011), I think it is critical that we actively work toward effective and appropriate dissemination of science.

We Have Clarified the Standards for the Publication of Single-Case Designs

We now provide greater clarity about standards for the publication of single-case designs. *JCCP* will not publish case studies. However, single-case designs, when conducted in a methodologically rigorous manner, have the potential to make important contributions to our understanding of clinical problems and their treatment (Kazdin, 2016). As such, we will consider methodologically sound single-case designs (e.g., that conform to the recommendations outlined in the “What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Single-Case Design” paper; Kratochwill et al., 2010).

Stability and Growth in the Editorial Team, Reviewer Pool, and Review Process

To maintain stability in publication quality, it is necessary to recruit the most qualified and distinguished Associate Editors (AEs), Consulting Editors (CEs), and reviewers, and it will be important to maintain high standards for the review process, particularly in terms of providing appropriate, direct feedback in a prompt and timely fashion. *JCCP* has built its reputation on these standards and they must be maintained.

I have been fortunate to assemble an extraordinary group of clinical scientists to serve as AEs and CEs, and my AEs and I continue to work to strengthen and grow our pool of reviewers. The entire editorial team is made up of experts who have proven track records as (a) leaders in the field in specific domains reflecting the scope of the journal and/or (b) having functioned competently in an editorial capacity at other journals, as well as young scholars who have shown promise by virtue of their scholarship and ability to prepare good reviews. By attracting early career professionals as AEs, CEs, and reviewers, it socializes them into the important role that the journal serves, thereby ensuring continued interest in and support for the journal and its standards into the future. In the spirit of inclusiveness, we strive to attract people from groups that are currently underrepresented and to encourage their participation in the editing and review process.

Serving as a reviewer is critical to the success of the journal and the field. It is, of course, a demanding and potentially time-consuming service. Because of that, I have instituted clear expectations for individuals serving as CEs so that anyone who agrees to take on that role knows exactly what will be asked of and expected from them. I also want to make sure that reviewers are recognized for their service. As such, we are developing a policy to provide commendations to those reviewers who consistently provide high-quality reviews in a timely fashion. Your service matters to us, and we want you to know it.

I look forward, myself, to serving the journal for these coming years.

References


