

Bettering Society and Psychology: The Two Missions of *TPS*

How can psychological science contribute to today's issues? The answer to that question is so long, that it could fill a journal, actually many journal issues over many years. And providing that answer is exactly what *Translational Issues in Psychological Science (TPS)* is planning to do. *TPS*' mission is to describe and apply research from all areas of psychology to a different important and timely topic in each issue. This will enable psychology researchers from all areas of the field to learn and build upon the methodologies and discoveries of each other. Additionally with the focus on translational research, the journal will provide useful ideas, guidance, and solutions on critical topics to a greater audience of practitioners, policy makers, and the general public. In just its first year, *TPS* will tackle issues related to sleep, teaching and learning, obesity, and prejudice and discrimination. By providing understanding and solutions on these topics, *TPS* reinforces the fundamental importance of psychological science in bettering society and the lives of individuals.

Psychology ensures its role as a robust and vital scientific field by demonstrating the relevance of its research to today's issues. But it takes more to keep our field strong and growing. Most centrally, it requires training the next generation of psychologists to conduct, extend, and disseminate research of high quality and relevance. And that is the second mission of *TPS*.

The driving force behind the establishment of *TPS* was the recognition that while many psychology graduate students learn how to write articles for publication, they gained little experience in peer reviewing or journal editing. Yet soon after graduation, they will be asked to participate in such important tasks. It was the graduate students themselves, through the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS), who first recognized the need for a formal training and mentoring process for journal editing. The accompanying editorial by Dr. Michael Scullin, former APAGS Science Committee chair and an Associate Editor on *TPS*' inaugural issue, describes the inspiring genesis of *TPS*. *TPS* is here today because of APAGS' thorough and convincing proposal for the journal, and their dedication and persistence in seeing it through the APA channels.

Members of APAGS now serve on *TPS*' editorial board and have the major responsibility for recruiting, vetting, and initially training graduate student reviewers. They also participate in selecting journal themes, suggesting graduate students to serve as Associate Editors, encouraging journal submissions, and advancing the mission and value of *TPS*. As the first Editor of *TPS*, I have been greatly impressed with the work done by prior and current APAGS committees and feel very fortunate to be able to help birth their *TPS* baby. I can assure you that the next generation of psychological researchers is able and ready to take on the charge of leading the field forward.

To accomplish its training mission, *TPS* relies on psychology researchers to serve as editors, reviewers, and mentors. As I have reached out to established and accomplished researchers to serve as special issue editors, I have been delighted to find that each and every one has embraced the idea of mentoring students in these skills. They not only see the importance of doing so, but also seem truly energized and enthusiastic about this important part of the *TPS* editor role. Established psychology researchers also have key mentoring roles as peer reviewers. By providing instructive, comprehensive, and constructive reviews, they

model best practices to student reviewers and, in doing so, help build a cadre of proficient and helpful peer reviewers for the future.

To carry out its missions, TPS needs the involvement of many. Be a *TPS* contributor, reviewer, and/or reader and encourage your students and colleagues to also do so. You will be joining a team dedicated to advancing society and psychology.

—Mary Beth Kenkel, Ph.D., Editor,
Translational Issues in Psychological Science