

EDITORIAL

Psychology of Addictive Behaviors

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Having served as Associate Editor of *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* (PAB) with three distinguished editors, Dr. Nancy Petry, Dr. Stephen Maisto, and Dr. Howard Shaffer, I learned from the very best how to work with authors and reviewers to publish cutting-edge papers that will have a strong and sustained impact on the field. I am grateful for their mentoring and the opportunity to apply what I have learned as Interim Editor of PAB, albeit under the untimely circumstances of Dr. Petry's death from cancer in July 2018.

I aim to continue Dr. Petry's vision of PAB as one of the few journals to cover the full range of addictions, including behavioral addictions such as gambling, excessive Internet use, online gaming, and food addiction (Petry, 2015). Articles addressing psychological aspects of hot topics, such as the opioid epidemic, increasing legalization of cannabis, and substance use in understudied and underserved populations (e.g., adolescents, elderly, racial/ethnic minority groups, military), are encouraged. With greater access to new technologies, PAB's long-standing emphasis on the psychological aspects of addiction will continue to see, for example, increasing use of neuroimaging (e.g., functional magnetic resonance imaging, electroencephalography/event-related potential) and near real-time assessment and intervention to generate novel insights into the nature of addictive behaviors and discover processes underlying behavior change. These innovative methods support PAB's continuing focus on randomized clinical trials testing primary hypotheses, longitudinal analyses, and experimental manipulations. To synthesize an exponentially expanding literature, PAB publishes systematic review papers and meta-analyses on high-impact topics that cover psychological, biological, social, and epidemiological perspectives on addictive behaviors.

PAB has an average time to initial decision of 34 days. This rapid turnaround time for decisions is made possible by PAB's outstanding team of associate and consulting editors, principal reviewers, and the more than 300 ad hoc reviewers who provide detailed and highly constructive feedback to their peers. As I review the exchanges between reviewers and authors, I am impressed by the depth of scholarship and collegiality of the reviews. The timeliness and high quality of PAB reviews reflect the high standards of its prized peer reviewers. In these exchanges, I have

learned about new experimental and statistical methods and gleaned useful tips on study methods. Mostly I am reminded that some of the most meaningful moments in my career came from reviewer feedback that improved my work. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to peer reviewers for their thoughtfulness and time. In this regard, Dr. Petry convened a stellar lineup of leading addictions experts to serve as associate editors, all of whom agreed to complete their term in honor of Nancy: Craig Colder, David Ledgerwood, Jim McKay, Sherry McKee, Tom Piasecki, Damaris Rohsenow, Cathy Stanger, and Katie Witkiewitz. The smooth running of the journal would not be possible without the dedication of Article Peer Review Coordinator Catherine Blackwell.

High-quality reviews remain a priority at PAB to ensure that the journal continues to be a top-choice outlet for exciting new findings driving the field. The journal averaged one new submission per day in the past year. Only one of four articles (25%) is eventually accepted. This means that PAB must decline some articles with merit because of limited space. PAB's high standards for publication can make what happens after submission seem like a black box. A recommended open access book, *Publishing Addiction Science* (Babor et al., 2017), makes the editorial process more transparent by discussing what happens in the pathway to the decision letter. This invaluable book offers sage advice for early career and experienced investigators alike on how to increase the chances of publishing one's research, from selecting a journal to responding to review comments. An important deciding factor for publication in PAB will continue to be the study's overall clinical or public health significance.

PAB is increasing efforts to recognize reviewer contributions to the journal and the participation of early career investigators as reviewers. Specifically, Dr. Petry initiated reviewing credit for PAB through the free Publons service, which provides a verified personal history of completed journal reviews. PAB will continue Publons and also will recognize the top reviewers in 2018 with a letter commending exceptional service to the journal. PAB maintains a committed corps of principal reviewers, who review five or more articles per year. Early career and experienced investigators are encouraged to apply for a position as principal reviewer (e-mail to tammychung111@gmail.com). PAB also will continue to increase the diversity of its reviewers and readership. Under Dr. Petry's leadership, PAB's international reach expanded, as reflected in editorial board members and reviewers based in Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

An upcoming special issue of PAB, edited by Dr. Catherine Stanger and Dr. John Roll, will honor the broad and lasting impact

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of Dr. Petry's research program in multiple areas in the field of addiction: contingency management, behavioral economics, and gambling behavior, to name just a few. Another issue of PAB in the coming year will include a special section organized by Dr. David Kerr and Dr. Deborah Capaldi on "The Intergenerational Transmission of Substance Use and Abuse: Understanding Continuities and Discontinuities." PAB welcomes your ideas for special issues or sections of the journal on topics that cover the spectrum of psychological aspects of addictions research from brain circuits to substance use behavior.

The articles in each issue of PAB reflect the diversity among Division 50's members, PAB's dedicated team of reviewers, and

contributors. We are united in this diversity by the common goal of advancing the prevention and treatment of addictive disorders.

References

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