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EDITORIAL

Advancing Family Psychology

The *Journal of Family Psychology* (*JFP*) is the premier family research journal. Contemporary family psychology is a complex field, as it includes systems perspectives on the multiple influences on relationships, developmental perspectives on how relationships are formed and sustained over time, cultural perspectives on how society and traditions affect relationships, the intersection of individual differences and social relationships, and practice components in how to affect real and meaningful changes in couple, parent, and family relationships.

To realize the broad and complex nature of the field, I have slightly revised the mission statement of the journal to capture contemporary scholarship in family psychology and to advance systems perspectives in this top-tier scientific journal. Over the next 6 years, I hope that authors will consider *JFP* as an outlet for their best work in the areas noted below.

***JFP* addresses societal challenges faced by families today.** Important societal challenges facing families today—risk for divorce in vulnerable families, couple and marital satisfaction in military families, child-raising challenges and positive outcomes in immigrant families, risk and resilience in families who adopt, and relationship transitions in diverse couples and families (e.g., in terms of race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability)—are examples of topics addressed in *JFP*.

***JFP* publishes important studies on what makes couple and family relationships work.** *JFP* consistently publishes strong empirical studies on what keeps couples together, what makes for strong parent–child relationships, and the subtle nuances in predicting healthy relationships over time.

***JFP* is a leader in publishing reports that use cutting-edge sophisticated approaches to research design and data analysis.** Actor–partner modeling, bootstrapping, use of phantom data, mixed methods, qualitative inquiry, structural equation modeling with moderators and mediators—these are just a few of the sophisticated approaches commonly used in *JFP* reports. Close to half of the highly cited works in *JFP* are longitudinal studies.

***JFP* imparts knowledge about effective therapy and prevention programs relevant to couples and families.** *JFP* provides an excellent outlet for high-quality studies that test the effects of family- or couple-based therapy or prevention programs. Especially important are reports that include couple or family characteristics as potential mediators and moderators of program effects.

Journal Directions

The journal will continue to publish primarily empirical reports, including reports that employ qualitative and mixed methods of exceptionally high quality. We will also consider integrative reviews that advance the field. From time to time, we will highlight reports that the editorial team considers breakthrough knowledge in research methodology. We are also expanding our publication rate to eight issues per year. This will allow for a quicker time to print, although online first will continue to be a priority for access. We are working closely with the American Psychological Association publications office to expand our reach through social media, including podcasts of selected reports and occasional press releases. I welcome your thoughts on how we may use multiple platforms to highlight the excellent work published in *JFP*.

Each issue of *JFP* represents the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of many individuals. From the moment a manuscript is submitted, it is carefully shepherded through the system by our excellent editorial office, thoughtfully reviewed by members of our editorial board, competently evaluated by our editors, and ultimately assembled into an issue. I am proud to join this collaborative effort to advance the field of family psychology so capably passed forward by the former editor, Nadine Kaslow. I look forward to hearing from authors and readers of *JFP* as we work together to continue not only the excellence of the journal but an investment in the future of family psychology.

—Barbara H. Fiese