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EDITORIAL

A Message From the Incoming Editor

I'd like to begin by thanking APA for selecting me as the new editor of *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*. It truly is an honor and privilege to serve the field in this capacity. I also would like to thank outgoing editor Dr. Stephen Hart. Thanks to Steve's sizable efforts in founding the journal and serving as its inaugural editor, *JTAM* has grown into an important source for disseminations on theory, research, and practice in the growing field of threat assessment and management.

The success of the journal is owed to the generous service from a few other groups of people as well. I have a terrific group of colleagues on the Associate Editorial Board (retitled from the Senior Editorial Board). Drs. Reid Meloy, Lisa Warren, and Jens Hoffmann are continuing in their roles, and Dr. Alasdair Goodwill has agreed to join us. We will work together with the goal of making *JTAM* a critical reference for threat assessment professionals around the globe. This includes members of the international audience represented by the four major threat assessment professional (TAP) associations devoted solely to threat assessment and management: the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP), based in the United States; the Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals (AETAP); the Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (CATAP); and the Asia Pacific Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (APATAP). The TAP associations have endorsed *JTAM* as their official publication, and I am grateful for their continued support of the journal.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the professionals who participate in the peer-review process. Critically, the journal relies on outstanding contributions from numerous ad hoc reviewers. We also have an extremely talented and well-respected editorial board. Editorial board members volunteer numerous hours to provide feedback to authors that serve to improve their submissions, regardless of whether the papers ultimately are published in *JTAM* or elsewhere. One of the many strengths of the journal's editorial board is its global and interdisciplinary composition, representing professionals with backgrounds in mental health, education, law enforcement, security, and human resources, among others. As a group, the editorial board personifies the international scope of the journal and the four TAP associations. Board members in four continents are based in nine countries: (in descending order of frequency) the United States (23); Australia (6); Canada and the Netherlands (3 each); and Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (1 each). One of my first priorities at *JTAM* was to increase women's representation on the editorial board. In the past year, the percentage of female editorial board members increased from 18% to 30%. It also was important to me to increase diversity in other respects as well. For example, the editorial board comprises a balance of seasoned and newer members as well as more senior and junior members of the field.

Numerous experts at APA's Office of Publications and Databases have been instrumental in the initiation and continued development of the journal. The professionals in APA's Office of Publications and Databases who have supported me most recently with tremendous knowledge and patience include three fabu-

lous Peer-Review Coordinators, Andrew Ferreira, Charlie Retzlaff, and Jenna Miley; Lois Jones (Peer-Review Manager); Annie Hill (Managing Director); Marla Bonner (Journal Production Editor); and Rose Sokol-Chang (APA Journals Publisher). I look forward to productive years together!

In the remainder of this editorial, I will endeavor to describe (briefly) my focus in editing the journal so that potential authors will be better informed regarding the submission process and desired content, and readers will have a preview of the sorts of papers they may see on future *JTAM* pages. My goal is to publish the highest possible quality of papers submitted to *JTAM* while decreasing the turnaround time between article submission and publication. Improving on this track record is essential for attracting submissions worthy of publication and ensuring the journal is a valued and consulted resource in the field.

Under my editorship, the focus of *JTAM* will remain on operational or applied issues—the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies, procedures, and programs for assessing and managing violence risk. Nevertheless, you do not need to be engaged in operational or applied issues to contribute to the journal. And, although *JTAM* is a scholarly academic journal, you do not need a track record as a researcher to contribute to *JTAM*. For example, if you engage primarily in operational or clinical work "in the field," along the way you may have identified questions arising from your practice that could be answered by research. A brief essay published in *JTAM* describing such a question or topic could facilitate research by others. Professionals who engage in the field of threat assessment and management in other capacities, such as through the development or application of law or an organization's policies, similarly could pose questions or describe issues arising from their work that could be addressed through research.

In short, I envision *JTAM* as providing a forum for the exchange of information and stimulation of future work, as well as open debate. It is my hope that the articles published in this journal provoke reactions and stimulate discourse. To that end, I invite readers to submit brief papers with comments on articles previously published in the journal. Also, please let me or any of the Associate Editors know if you have suggestions for topics that would be appropriate for an intellectual exchange of viewpoints and opinions. Submissions of different formats are encouraged, including case studies, qualitative literature reviews, meta-analyses, intervention studies, quantitative analyses of primary or secondary data sets, replications, theoretical overviews, and commentaries. Papers focusing on interpersonal violence of any kind are welcomed. Research addressing understudied areas that recently have been highlighted in the media and raised social consciousness, such as sexual harassment and violence vis-à-vis the #MeToo movement, could contribute to genuine prevention of violence in the workplace and beyond.

Further related to the type of content desirable in submissions, a review of the breadth of topics covered in *JTAM* thus far illustrates a dearth of papers on management of risk for violence relative to its assessment. I hope a focus on threat assessment will continue in that it is the bedrock of good threat management. However, as *JTAM* matures, I anticipate publications on both assessing as well as managing threats and risk will become more balanced in the journal's pages. I also hope to see discussions to promote increased consensus regarding how to define essential concepts in our field and consistency in the use of basic terms (e.g., threat vs. violence risk assessment). Increasing our precision in terminology should foster clarity in thinking regarding practice and research in the field (see, e.g., Lilienfeld et al., 2015). A final comment regarding possible content of papers: If you have been selected to make a presentation at one of the

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TAP conferences, consider whether your work would be appropriate for submission to *JTAM*.

Reflective of the international scope of the journal, it is likely that many worthy ideas do not materialize into submissions to *JTAM* at least in part due to perceived barriers among authors whose first language is not English. I want to highlight some suggestions that may decrease these potential obstacles. Authors may consult the information from APA on academic writing and English editing services (http://www.apa.org/pubs/authors/editing-services.aspx). I also welcome you to contact me or any of the Associate Editors should you have English language-related concerns about your submission. We will endeavor to provide assistance ourselves, or help in locating a subject matter expert who can support you. We also are in preliminary discussions about ways in which we could establish more formal channels of support at *JTAM*, such as creating a specialty editorial board position tasked with providing English language support. Finally, please note that *JTAM* does not have a specific length restriction for papers, but authors should bear in mind that length should be reflective of the amount of page space necessary to achieve the aim of the given paper.

I am eager to work with you during the next several years in advancing the scientific status and practical relevance of *JTAM*. I very much hope to hear from you and welcome you to contact me at lguy@sfu.ca with suggestions or comments for improving the journal. Your submissions can be sent to the *JTAM* portal at http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/tam/?tab=4.

Laura S. Guy
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Reference

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