Two Years in Review

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It is now 2 years since I assumed the editorship of the Journal. I remain deeply indebted to my predecessors—particularly my immediate predecessor Gary Mesibov, for being such “a hard act to follow”. The first of these 2 years was spent in transition, and, now that the second year is drawing to a close, it seems very appropriate to provide a report to you, the readers, on the current state of as well as several changes to the Journal and to thank the many people who have contributed to its ongoing success.

As readers of this journal know, interest in the field of autism and related disorders has increased dramatically throughout the past decade. This has been reflected in various academic products—research papers, review and chapters, books, and other media. The primary focus of this Journal remains publishing high quality, peer reviewed research. During the past year, we received approximately 500 submissions. Of these, about 50% were ultimately accepted. For those authors who have been successful in publishing here, we thank you for your contributions; and for those whose attempts did not meet with success, we hope you will continue to consider JADD and wish you the best for your next submission.

Given the large number of papers reviewed, we have taken several steps to streamline the submission and review process, thereby simplifying, we hope, the task for authors and reviewers alike. To this end, the staff of the Journal—Lori Klein, Managing Editor, and Emily Deegan, Editorial Assistant, have paid very careful attention to the required format on all submissions and, as a result, many papers are returned for format revision before the review process even

begins. We hope that this has both streamlined the process for authors and simplified the task for reviewers.

The Associate Editors and Editorial Board and all our various reviewers have engaged in the task of peer review with great enthusiasm and seriousness of purpose. Given the large number of papers now being submitted, we have taken some steps to avoid reviewing papers that are unlikely to be accepted; that is, the Associate Editors and I are now occasionally declining to accept a paper even before review if we believe it will not, ultimately, be successful.

We have introduced a policy (for which there will be some occasional exceptions to prove the rule) of publishing case reports only as letters to the editor, and we are being even more selective in accepting such papers given the tremendous pressure for Journal space. Exceptions will include single case research studies (e.g., behavioral studies) when these are of more general interest to the readership.

Similarly, we have begun to invite reviews of specific topics that appear of great interest or relevance to our readership. Authors interested in submitting such papers are encouraged to contact me or one of the Associate Editors before submitting review papers.

Our Editorial Board and many reviewers deserve thanks for their diligence and patience. We have listed our many reviewers in this issue and express our deep appreciation to them. It is typical for papers to undergo at least one revision, and sometimes more, and reviewer input remains of profound importance to the Associate Editors and to me. Last year approximately 90% of papers were revised at least once. We believe that the careful attention to the process has resulted in higher quality papers. As a Journal, our impact factor has increased on a yearly basis for the last several years. This is a testament to the seriousness with which all of us—authors, reviewers, and editors—take the process.

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We have introduced a few other changes in the Journal as well. Given the numerous books and materials now being produced and of interest to a range of our readers, we have begun listing materials received for review and have included book and medial/material reviews on a regular basis. Although not part of our usual peer review process, we hope that bringing these

materials to our readership's attention is a valuable service.

Throughout this process, the support of a tremendous helpful publishing team has been an important resource. Judy Jones and Sharon Panula as well as David Seidenfield, Eloisa Orilla, and Angela Burke at Springer deserve special thanks.