Editors' Note

Laura Downey¹ · Susan Kierr¹ · Nancy Beardall¹

Published online: 10 June 2021

© American Dance Therapy Association 2021

Dear Readers,

After another roller coaster 6 months, we're coming to the other side of the pandemic in the United States though much of the world is still deeply impacted. Social justice growth has been demonstrated in a variety of ways, yet we recognize there is much yet to be done. This issue of the American Journal of Dance Therapy (AJDT) reflects the work of many of us and we're proud of that.

We have news from our publisher, Springer: the APA 7th Edition will now be the consistent format used for AJDT submissions. This shift will be easier for our authors who are likely to be familiar with this style without needing to attend to the exceptions previously employed by Springer.

Another piece of news comes from Susan Kierr, who will be transitioning out of her position as co-editor of our journal. Susan will continue to be an editor, (however, closer to home) for the Creative Alliance of New Orleans (CANO), a breakthrough coalition of educators, researchers and culture-bearers.

In this issue we are pleased to bring two book reviews, both relevant to this moment in time. *Dance and Creativity within Dance/Movement Therapy, International Perspectives* is edited by two women who have given an enormous amount of themselves, their intellect and their skills to our field. Sharon Chaiklin and Hilda Wengrower now bring us a collection from writers around the world, all of whom prioritize dance in their work. A second book reviewed in this issue is *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathways of Mending Hearts and Bodies*, by Resmaa Menakem, is being used by many groups in accessing the body as a path to healing racialized trauma. Both book reviews offer dance/movement therapists expanded knowledge in our field that can be applied to the creative process and clinical practice.

The journal always publishes conference materials from the most recent gathering of our profession. Of course, this year was different, as we did not gather bodily—a loss that may be particularly poignant for dance/movement therapy. However, we did meet at our virtual conference and we were able to gather some materials from

✉ Laura Downey
ajdt.laura@gmail.com

¹ Evanston, IL 60202, USA

that event to put into this edition. Patricia Capello has written a powerful description of the International Panel, and we have timely material from Ilene Serlin's Marian Chace Foundation Lecture. You will also find the abstracts from the Research and Thesis Poster Session, organized for this edition by Cecilia Fontanesi and Karolina Bryl.

Finally, two original articles offer opportunities for embracing culture in dance/movement therapy practice. Laura Sanchez Garcia and Angelica Pinna-Perez demonstrate the use of Flamenco dance and music in dance/movement therapy sessions. This demonstration brings to life some of the key points in the *My Grandmother's Hands* book review. Megz Roberts used a case study to demonstrate the systemic based issues in our healthcare systems in embracing cultural belief and cultural difference. This article offers a model for shifting the provider approach within the system in order to embrace (rather than manage) culturally based client concerns with the goal of improving reach and effectiveness of services.

As editors, we are committed to addressing diversity, equity and identity in content, reviews, and subject matter. We welcome your opinions and observations. We especially welcome your manuscripts on these topics.

Laura Downey, Co Editor

Susan Kierr, Outgoing Co Editor

Nancy Beardall, Book Review Editor

Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Research involving human participants or animals This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the author.

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.