

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

# Thanks and Appreciations 2020

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This issue is our final one of this momentous year, as we continue to struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic. In the US, we are confronting an intense reckoning with racism and its insidious effects on all aspects of our lives. At the time this issue is published, the United States 2020 presidential election campaign will be close to its conclusion. While this editor writes from a distinctly US-centric perspective, it is fair to say that the outcome of the election has global implications. Perhaps I suffer from a myopic historical perspective, but at the time this editorial is written, it feels like an unprecedented time.

On a personal note, this is written in the waning days of my time on the front lines of community mental health work; my career as chief medical officer of a large agency is concluding on the heels of months of immersion in efforts to address the myriad effects of Covid-19 while bidding farewell to people with whom I have worked for over two decades. It has been a time of celebrating peoples' remarkable journeys but also a time of grief. The word "bittersweet," while perhaps overused, often came to mind.

Through all of this, the work of the journal has continued. I am deeply grateful for the many people who persevered and continued to contribute in so many valuable ways. My team from Springer, Teresa Krauss, publishing editor; Lakshmi Somasundaram, journal editorial office assistant, and Nandhini Pesala, production editor, have been unfailingly kind and patient when responding to the many emails from this fledgling editor.

Our editorial board has been engaged and helpful. I extend a hearty welcome to our many new members who bring broad and pertinent perspectives to this endeavor. We are working together to continue to address matters of social justice with respect not only to the work we do in our communities but also to the work we do as scholars.

This is the journal of the American Association for Community Psychiatry. The members of this group have inspired me as they have addressed with grace, fortitude, and courage the problem of systemic racism and its profound effects on our patients and ourselves. One goal for the next year is to bring that work into the pages of this journal.

I remain deeply grateful to the many people who contribute their work to the journal. You are the essence of what we produce.

Lastly, there are our reviewers from 2020 who are listed below. I do not have adequate words to thank all of you. Through the course of this year, I have had glimpses of your lives. None of us has immunity. You have been overwhelmed with the demands of work and family. Some have been schooling children. Others have been ill and there are many among us who have lost loved ones. Despite that, so many have completed reviews with thoughtfulness. Through our many exchanges and from reading your comments, along with the work of our authors, I have learned so much from so many.

With gratitude.

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