EDITORIAL

This issue of *Behavior Research Methods & Instrumentation* is dedicated to recent technological developments in the mental health care professions. As occurred in the past in the more basic research areas of the behavioral, social, and biological sciences, a relatively small number of clinically oriented professionals are developing and pursuing the uses of computers and other devices in the mental health fields. Historically, their efforts parallel those of some experimental psychologists who in the 1960s introduced computer hardware and software into laboratories and fought the battles of justifying purchase and uses of systems while developing on-line and real-time methodologies. The same forward-seeing individuals and their followers are now at the scientific forefront in contributing to our knowledge of behavior. And the use and availability of computing machinery, maxi-mini-micro, is now widespread in behavioral research. The compactness and low price of computers resulting from developments in electronic microtechnology are accelerating, and their uses, contributions, and potential are widely known and appreciated.

This is not yet the case in the applied fields. Most professionals and students in the clinical areas are unaware of developments and applications of technology in their own mental health

fields, and many who are aware show the same opposition to acceptance and development shown in psychology departments and research laboratories in the 1960s and early 1970s.

A great deal of the development of computer methodologies in mental health has originated with the relatively few clinical psychologists and psychiatrists involved; an appreciable and acknowledged contribution has come from the basic experimental sciences. Regardless, the contents of this volume should provide information of interest to professionals in all areas of the behavioral and social sciences interested in technological advance.

The Guest Editor of this issue is James H. Johnson, Director of Clinical Training, Illinois Institute of Technology. Dr. Johnson is a member of this Journal's Editorial Staff and has been at the forefront in investigating and developing the uses of technology in applied areas. Much of his professional work has been with systems development and evaluation and with computerized test systems. Professor Johnson is co-editor of several book volumes dealing with technology and has published widely in the area of computer applications in the clinical fields.

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