

## From the Editor's Desk

### Thank you to *JRRD* reviewers



*Stacieann C. Yuhasz, PhD;*  
*Johanna L. Gribble, MA*

The *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development (JRRD)* has accomplished much in the past year, but as always, we must start by thanking the 227 reviewers and the wonderful members of the *JRRD* Editorial Board who volunteer their time and knowledge to review each submission. Without their collective support and enthusiasm, *JRRD* production would grind to a halt. We must also thank our readership for their continued support as we worked to reestablish the new and improved version of the *JRRD* Web site, which is available at <http://www.rehab.research.va.gov/jour/jourindx.html>. Journal submission and production remained uninterrupted during the Web transition period and we wish to thank all those who continue to submit articles through Manuscript Central (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jrrd>).

We will be implementing several new features to *JRRD* beginning in 2009, most of which are based on best practice guidelines for publication ethics (Graf C, Wager E, Bowman A, Fiack S, Scott-Lichter D, Robinson A. Best practice guidelines on publication ethics: A publisher's perspective. *Int J Clin Pract.* 2007;61(s152):1–26). At *JRRD*, we are very interested in providing solid editorial practices bolstered by good decisions, so as to effectively mitigate any potential financial, intellectual, and political interests that may compete with the dissemination of sound rehabilitation science and practice. The first new feature in each published article will be a section on specific author contributions. This feature, in addition to the current requirement for itemizing funding sources, will provide additional transparency for the *JRRD* readership. These author descriptions will be published in an abbreviated form at the end of each article to make it clear how each author was involved in the production of the work. For example, categories such as “Conceived and designed the experiments,” “Patient recruitment,” “Data collection,” “Data analysis,” “Prepared the manuscript,” and “Statistical support” will be followed by the initials of each applicable author. In addition, during the proofing of all *JRRD* articles, all authors are required to sign off on the final article to assure full transparency among the persons submitting the article and to record the acknowledgment that all listed authors are aware of the subsequent publication and article content.

Following the example of such leading journals as *Addiction*, the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, and the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *JRRD* will be adopting a stricter conflict-of-interest disclosure policy for its authors beginning January 1, 2009. This policy will require authors to disclose financial ties for the 3 years prior to submission, i.e., direct employment, grants and research funding, and speaking fees, to cite a few examples. We will be following the Center for Science in the Public Interest's “Model Conflict of Interest Disclosure Guideline for Scientific and Medical Journals,” available at <http://www.cspinet.org/integrity/guidelines.html>. Specific instructions will be included in the Guidelines for Contributors available on the *JRRD* Web site and from the main logon page for the Manuscript Central Web site (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jrrd>).

Also starting with the first issue in 2009, *JRRD* will announce a general Call for Papers in each issue. For example, we are currently interested in papers related to Rehabilitation Clinical Trials, Assistive Technology, and Rehabilitation Capacity for the Future. Please do not feel limited by this feature as we will always welcome suggestions and submissions from our readers.

Finally, *JRRD* will run a series of guest editorials on topics of interest to rehabilitation professionals. We will start with several articles on biostatistics featuring the specific usage and relevance to rehabilitation medicine and tailored to also be useful to nonstatisticians.

Additionally this upcoming year, *JRRD* will feature single-topic issues that include a section on dysphagia, current research into traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and pain, and cutting-edge prosthesis research outcomes based on a comprehensive veterans survey spanning the eras of World War II to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Also, anybody interested in editing a single-topic issue for 2010 or 2011 should contact the editor as soon as possible.

Again, we wish to thank all who volunteer their time and expertise to continue to keep *JRRD* excellent. We hope to continue to expand upon these relationships and cultivate new ones. As always, we welcome your input. Thank you.

***Stacieann C. Yuhasz, PhD***

*Editor, Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*

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*Technical Writer-Editor, Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*



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