



THE JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY

EDITORIAL

Taking on the Role of Editor in Chief



Assuming the title of editor in chief of *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* is a tremendous honor. It is that much more of an honor due to the respect and admiration I have for its editor in chief of the past 30 years, Dr Alan Gelenberg. I first met Alan almost 20 years ago, early out of training, and when I became a faculty member at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Alan was my department chair and mentor. He introduced me to JCP, and I became an editorial board member, then a deputy editor, and then, 10 years ago, vice–editor in chief. Even after both Alan and I left Arizona, we have stayed in close touch through our work with JCP. Alan has been a generous and wise mentor, role model, and friend. It's been a great privilege to know him and work with him, and I wish him a well-deserved, wonderful, and healthy retirement. I am grateful to follow in his footsteps.

The *Journal* has been a pivotal part of my life as I came to take on more responsibilities as a deputy editor and then vice–editor in chief. It has been a pleasure to work with Alan, its publisher Dr John Shelton and his stellar team, the section editors, the editorial board, authors, and reviewers. JCP serves a central role in our field, featuring high-quality publications of crucial clinical relevance. It is an honor and responsibility to help bring new and novel information to the forefront in a way that impacts clinical care and patients.

Typically at the end of the year, we thank our reviewers and editorial board. Indeed, we are grateful for your contributions. To our reviewers, we are indebted, as this anonymous role that taps the time of experts is integral to the peer review process. I encourage any of you who review regularly for journals to consider this a role that requires mentorship and to identify junior colleagues who would make valuable contributions as reviewers. While being a reviewer is an anonymous and generous pursuit, learning to critically review manuscripts is a scholarly process that requires both knowledge and learned skills.

To our authors, past and present, thank you for thinking of JCP when submitting your work. We seek to publish cutting-edge research that will impact our field, and we appreciate the quality of the manuscripts we receive. We are in an enviable position to receive so many high-quality papers that have the ability to effect real changes in our field.

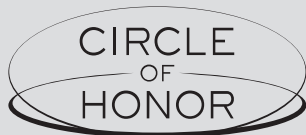
The physical presence of JCP has changed as our society has moved toward online publication. We have transitioned from a journal that existed solely in printed form to a hybrid format in which a majority of articles are published online only. A decade ago, I would not have imagined the extensive use of online tools in medical publishing and education, and it's hard to guess what changes will come over the next decade. We appreciate the flexibility of authors, reviewers, and readers as we increasingly move toward electronic publishing platforms. The exciting opportunity to publish work more quickly and disseminate it further with online formats comes in parallel with the overwhelming amount of data now found online. Further, the explosion of new online journals of variable quality—which often have names that sound like those of the most trusted journals in our field—can make us question our trust in online publication. In this climate, we need credible, scientifically rigorous journals more than ever. One of JCP's major goals will be to provide a guiding light to help our readers sort out the most impactful findings in psychiatry.

I look forward to my new role, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in it.

Marlene P. Freeman, MD
Editor in Chief

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