

Journal of the American Academy of CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY

American Association of Directors of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Washington, DC | April 3, 2020

Dear AACAP Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a *JAACAP* update for your upcoming virtual meeting. For your review, I enclose key updates about *JAACAP* activities.

As AACAP's flagship journal, *JAACAP* is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of child and adolescent psychiatry by publishing original research and papers of theoretical, scientific, and clinical relevance to the field. I hope that this information will be valuable and of interest to you as informed readers and engaged Academy members.

Though it can be hard to believe given all that we've been through the last few weeks, we are still early in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and its full implications for mental health research are still unfolding. We anticipate that in the near term, the *Journal* may see a slight increase in submissions as researchers turn their attention from data collection to completing manuscripts they have had on the backburner. But lab closures, delays in data collection, and potential reductions in research funding could result in longer-term challenges for both the field and the *Journal*. We also anticipate that local, national, and international responses to the pandemic will require the attention our authors, editors, and peer reviewers, which could slow peer review and affect responsiveness. We will work with our community, be flexible with deadlines, and overall, ensure that the *Journal* is respectful of the other demands on their time while continuing to assess cutting-edge research, clinical, and policy guidance, and personal reflections for publication.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your ongoing support of the *Journal*. I look forward to seeing you at the AACAP Annual Meeting in the fall and welcome any questions or comments that you may have before then. And my best wishes to you, your colleagues, friends, and family during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas K. Novins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Douglas K. Novins, MD
Editor-in-Chief

Key Updates

- Last fall, *JAACAP* launched a new series called **Attachments**. Attachments are non-fictional narratives about experiences in the field of pediatric mental health, including but not limited to personal and clinical experiences. Attachments should be no longer than 800 words. Citations are not required, unless quoting or otherwise using another person's work. Patient permission will be required if a specific patient is identified. In press [articles in the series are now available online and the first article, "Three Wishes" by Karen Dineen Wagner](#), is scheduled to appear in the June issue of the *Journal*.
- We received a record number of submissions in 2019, a total of 810, which was our highest number of submissions ever, and 63 more than we received in 2018, our previous highest on record. Because of this influx of submissions, we have been able to maintain our high editorial standards and accept a record number of manuscripts. While this has placed additional demands on our senior editors, our reviewers, and our editorial office, it has also had a number of benefits, including:
 - **Special Foci.** We are now able to cohort articles based on important areas of focus for the field. For example, in addition to our annual [January review issue](#), several other issues over the last year have featured collections of articles on topics such as [substance use disorders](#), [autism spectrum disorders](#), [suicide](#), [translational research](#), and in our April issue, [schools and mental health](#).
 - **In Press Articles.** We have a robust collection of over 100 in press articles and editorials that readers can access at <https://www.jaacap.org/inpress>. These articles are fully citable and also discoverable in major scientific databases such as PubMed.
 - **More Editorials.** With more papers in the pipeline, we are able to offer potential editorialists more flexibility and time to craft their editorials, and more of our colleagues are willing to take on this task. We publish editorials for the majority of research articles in *JAACAP*, allowing all of us to benefit from the interpretation and synthesis of complex research studies by leaders in the field.
 - **More articles focused on clinical and policy issues.** By adding a Deputy Editor to our team in 2018 who would be focused specifically on clinical contact – Schuyler W. Henderson, MD, MPH – I aimed to increase the number of articles that speak to our practices and our roles as advocates for the mental health of children and their families. In 2019, we published 32 such articles. You can help by getting the word out to our colleagues that Schuyler and I are always happy to work with them (and you) to hone your ideas and manuscripts prior to peer review. Share your ideas with us at support@jaacap.org.
- We have worked hard to increase our **social medial presence**. @*JAACAP* now posts daily on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), sharing the latest in published content and news about the *Journal*. We just surpassed 2,000 followers on Facebook and 1,000 on Twitter. Associate Editor Robert R. Althoff, MD, PhD, and I both tweet regularly about *JAACAP* as [@childpsychvt](#) and [@DNovins](#). Are you on social medial? If so, follow us and stay up to date with all things [#jaacap!](#)
 - In March, @*JAACAP* hosted our **latest live Twitter event** to discuss internet CBT basics for the child and adolescent psychiatrist. *JAACAP Connect* authors Jenny

Nguyen, MD, and Jessica Jeffrey, MD, MPH, MBA, joined *JAACAP* Editor-in-Chief Doug Novins, MD, Associate Editor Robert Althoff, MD, PhD, and *JAACAP Connect* Editor Justin Schreiber, DO, MPH, to discuss their article and field questions from the Twitterverse. Check out #JAACAPConnectChats to read the discussion.

- We continue to seek **children's art** for the cover of the *Journal*. Nine of our 2019 covers featured artwork from children. You can help us! Artwork from your patients, children, grandchildren, and other young people in your social circle are welcome.
- Over a year and a half ago, we created a collection of articles on the effects of [separating children from families](#), early life trauma, and related topics, along with a statement from the *JAACAP* editorial team, which builds on the earlier work of AACAP leadership to respond to the situation impacting immigrant children and families in the US. Our collection remains online and freely available to all.
 - We are currently finalizing another such collection focused on **youth suicide** that will be available online later this year.
- Our **call for papers for reviews on anxiety disorders and OCD**, edited by me, Rob Althoff, and guest editor Dan Geller, generated 22 submissions. The first 3 reviews in this series were published in January.
- Our **call for papers for reviews on ADHD** closed in December 2019, and we received about 100 proposals. Approximately 20 have been invited to submit manuscripts. Jonathan Posner, MD, is serving as guest editor for this series.
- For our researcher colleagues:
 - Our [rapid review process](#) allows authors whose manuscripts were reviewed but ultimately not accepted by other top-tier journals to access an expedited review process. This program has proven successful so far with a high level of interest and several manuscripts accepted into the expedited pipeline.
 - [Registered Reports](#) was launched in December 2018 and we will publish the first study preregistration in the June issue of the *Journal*. This program offers authors the opportunity to 'pre-register' their study with *JAACAP* prior to conducting their research.