

Editorial:

Parting Words

It somehow seems hard to believe that it was almost seven years ago that I took on the position of Associate Editor and soon after Editor of the quarterly publication of the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. With Dr. Vivek Kusumakar as Editor and Ms. Tena Roebuck as our dedicated Editorial Assistant based in Halifax, I came “on board” and discovered the intricacies of putting an issue together along with the pleasure of corresponding with contributors from across the country. A few parting words of advice from Vivek and the support of the board of the CACAP helped launch me on my way as Editor.

Working with what is now affectionately called by some members, the “Indigo Journal”, I have been delighted with the changes we have been able to achieve, culminating in our recent acceptance on the PubMed database. Starting with designated theme issues with invited guest editors, we continued to promote evidence based and clinically relevant articles. I recall a staff member from Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto mentioning that the psychiatry residents were using our first theme issue on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (August, 2003) as a study guide for the topic. Such encouraging feedback, spurred us on. We went on to showcase other themes such as Media and Mental Health in Children, Aboriginal Child and Youth Mental Health and Perspectives on Childhood and Adolescent Aggression, to name a few.

An Editor’s job cannot be done without the support, hard work, and guidance of key people. It was with much regret that I accepted Tena Roebuck’s resignation a number of years ago. We had developed a convenient arrangement, after I moved from Ottawa to Victoria, of getting all our work over and done with before 9am in the morning B.C. time thanks to the four hour time difference between the two coasts! Tena’s wonderful Maritime accent, combined with dedication to keeping things on track, were much appreciated. Tena assisted in making a smooth transition of duties to Ms. Vicki Simmons, here in Victoria, who has equally met

the challenge as Editorial Assistant. Vicki is much appreciated for taking up her evening time responding to my calls or emails and keeping track of the burgeoning amount of correspondence. With the increasing workload, Dr. Amy Cheung was willing to take on the job as Assistant Editor back in 2006, and I was delighted that we were able to have someone of her caliber to put on our “roster” and promote the Journal from her central Canadian location. Amy, at that time, had postponed taking on the position as she had just become a new mom. We are proud to say that she will be continuing her position upon her return from her second maternity leave that started this May and that their daughter now has a brother!

Along with our early acceptance on a number of key databases we continued to re-define the Journal, starting with formalizing a name change and giving it a new look both with a new cover and format. This redesign was also accompanied by the addition of two new Sections and their accompanying Section Editors, Dr. Abel Ickowitz for Clinical Case Rounds in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Dr. Adil Virani for Pediatric Psychopharmacology. When one of the key “workhorses” of the Academy, our long time Book Section Editor, Dr. Wade Junek, resigned, Dr. Pratibha Reebye made the transition appear seamless. I recall at one of our annual meetings, leaving the two of them to discuss further the intricacies and machinations of the sophisticated database that Wade had developed to keep track of all book editing transactions and Pratibha’s commitment to taking it on in addition to her busy practice and research work.

Having my own strong attachment to the Journal, as well as a committed team of professionals to work with, has helped me to push forward and stay focused. The key goals that I had set have been achieved and it feels like the right time to have a new editor move the Journal further along in its development. Stepping down is always easier when there is someone keen, willing and able to step in. Dr.

Normand Carrey has now taken on the Editor's job with his first issue appearing in November, 2008.

Dr. Carrey is a clinician, teacher and researcher based in Halifax with the Dalhousie University Department of Psychiatry. He received his MD from the University of Toronto, adult psychiatry residency at UCLA and child training at St Mary's, McAuley Neuropsychiatric Institute in San Francisco. Normand and I knew each other initially in Ottawa where he practiced for eight years before moving to Halifax twelve years ago. His interests are eclectic to say the least. He has authored many articles including those on neuroimaging of disruptive behavior and animal research on gene expression in prepubertal rats regarding the effects of stimulants. He was guest editor for the Child and Adolescent Clinics of North America in May 2007 for the theme issue of Resilience and guest editor for the Journal of Canadian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's May 2008 theme issue on Classification in Child Psychiatry. His areas of clinical expertise include family therapy, attachment and conduct disorder, and

the psychiatric techniques of Milton Erickson. He teaches the History of Psychiatry to general psychiatry residents and has also contributed several film reviews and poetry pieces for the Left Atrium section of the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Before concluding, I would like to thank those who have supported the growth of the Journal over these years, starting with those I have already mentioned, as well as guest editors for theme issues, contributing authors, reviewers, editorial board members, administrators for the CACAP, the board and executive of the CACAP and also, yourselves, the readers. The Journal is in a position to highlight the academic work of Canadian and international mental health researchers/clinicians as well as provide a tool for effective and accessible knowledge translation. It has been a privilege to have served as its Editor.

Sincerely,

Mary K Nixon MD, FRCPC