

EDITORIAL

A Tall Order

It is with humble hands that I take over the reins of a journal that has virtually been nursed from infancy into a mature publication over the course of seven years under Dr. Nixon's stewardship. Indeed, our brand name of the "Indigo Journal" is synonymous with the hard work and dedication of Dr. Nixon and her devoted editorial staff. Among the landmark accomplishments we can cite is the indexing of the *Journal* with the PubMed, PsychINFO and CINAHL databases. Dr. Nixon also took the important step of turning the *Journal* into an open access publication, thus maximizing its reach and impact.

In addition to her commitment to the *Journal*, Dr. Nixon has had a longstanding interest in research since her first sabbatical year in Nantes, France, working in a psychopharmacology lab on a behavioural model of depression in mice and the serotonin system. Her clinical research is now primarily focused on the study of non-suicidal self-injury in youth. She leads a national research network on self-injury which has established a website for both the research and general community (www.insyncgroup.ca). A recent publication, *Self Injury in Youth: The Essential Guide to Assessment and Treatment*, has been co-edited by Dr. Nixon and her colleague at McGill University, Dr. Nancy Heath.

The *Journal* has been constructed to reflect the diversity of this vast country, and the plurality of its community of practitioners. It is one of the few publications that can boast a truly bilingual nature. Dr. Nixon has finessed the *Journal*, in this competitive age of well-resourced journals, into a unique niche position of combining theme issues alternating with cutting edge new research and reviews. With the addition of a psychopharmacology section and clinical case rounds, the *Journal* has become a well-rounded publication that emphasizes content as well as context, evidence as well as process.

Building on the strong base already established, the new editorial board would like to continue in the tradition of scholarly papers and theme issues that seek to break new ground by

becoming more international and interdisciplinary. Journals should be forums where new ideas and knowledge are examined and debated. As Dr. Andres Martin has so aptly stated, "today's controversies are tomorrow's hypotheses." At the same time the wisdom and perspectives of seasoned observers of the scene can add trend or historical insights that complement other types of evidence. The *Journal* will continue to integrate both qualitative as well as quantitative contributions to theory and practice. The *Journal* will also continue as a strong advocate for children and families' rights.

I am fortunate to be supported by my new assistant editor, the indefatigable Dr. Carlo Carandang, and Mr. Dean Elbe who has already demonstrated his wide breadth of knowledge in psychopharmacology (he will be joined by Dr. Dorothy Reddy...welcome aboard). Dr. Andre Gagnon also joins us as a new assistant editor for francophone contributions. My thanks also to Dr. Abel Ickowicz (case studies) and Dr. Pratihba Reebye (book reviews) who have made stellar contributions as section editors to the *Journal*.

The editor's job is very much a behind the scenes, arm twisting and last minute sweating to bring a journal to the publication deadline. Mary Kay and her staff have amassed and then coordinated a virtual army of reviewers and editorial board members to assist her in bringing a high quality product to the readership, not only within Canada and the Academy but also throughout the world. She, along with her editorial board and the management staff (Vicki Simmons and Elizabeth Waite), richly deserve our recognition as the *Journal* is poised to make an even greater contribution to improving the lives of children and families around the world. Mary Kay, on behalf of the Academy, the editorial board, and all the readers of the Indigo Journal, please accept our warmest heart-felt gratitude for the countless hours of selfless dedication to the *Journal* and its objectives.