



Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities

*The official journal of the International Association for the Scientific Study of
Intellectual Disabilities*

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Report to Council (May 2007)

Matthew P. Janicki, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief

● JPPID, established in 2003, is the official journal of the IASSID, and is underwritten through a grant received from the Toinvest Sanità Organization in Rome, Italy. It is co-owned with Blackwell Publishing, which provides editorial support. JPPID is now into its fourth year of publication and is doing well with respect to subscriptions, submissions, and maintaining publication schedules. The work of JPPID is managed by Matthew Janicki, the Editor-in-Chief, and Jenn Hall, JPPID's Editorial Coordinator.

● Last year (2006) we switched over to electronic manuscript submission with Manuscript Central (MC) from Scholar One and this has worked out quite well, as both Jenn and I have become more familiar with MC. We organized four discrete issues, two of which were special issues. The first one was on early intervention and guest edited by Drs. Michael Guralnick of the University of Washington (USA) and Giorgio Albertini of Casa di Cura San Raffaele (Italy) and the second was a special issue of family services practices research guest edited by Dr. Roy Brown of the University of Victoria (Canada). Blackwell organized our acceptance by PsycINFO, the American Psychological Association's indexing service. Blackwell also assigned a new production editor to JPPID, Amanda Martinez, and a senior associated editor, Fiona Williams.

● In 2006, we ran 285 pages, 45 pages over the page budget of 240. In volume 3, issue 1 had 13 articles, issue 2 had 13 articles, issue 3 had 9 articles and issue 4 had 9 articles. Overall we published 43 manuscript articles in 2006. Articles were published from authors in USA (11), Canada (8), Italy (6), Israel (5), Australia and the Netherlands (3), Austria, Sweden, and the UK (2), and Japan (1). We have instituted a control to ensure that we maintain production articles within the page allocation.

- In 2007, we have begun closer scrutiny of the production schedules and submissions due to a reasonable flow of submissions and acceptances of manuscripts. As of the end of May, we have 14 articles under acceptance and an equivalent number under various stages of review. In volume 4, the second issue was a special issue on multiple and profound disabilities, guest edited by Prof. James Hogg of the University of Dunedin in Scotland. This issue ran over the page allocation due to the number of manuscripts submitted and we have made adjustments for a lesser number of pages scheduled for issues 3 and 4. We now have a slight backlog of articles that will take us into 2008. Blackwell has agreed to an increase in the page allocation for 2008 and this should help. On another note, Blackwell has begun to file applications to have JPPID accepted by the major indexing services since we are now on a regular production schedule.

- In 2008, we are planning to regularize our production work to maintain the submission schedule to Blackwell and institute tighter review procedures for manuscripts that are submitted which are poorly written or constructed. In many cases, we had aided the authors by providing editorial suggestions – particularly when the authors' first language was not English. However, with a backlog of manuscripts we will no longer provide this assistance. Also, in 2008, we are planning on a special issue on comparative social policies, guest edited by Prof. Eric Emerson, to coincide in publication with the 2008 Congress.

- *Comments.* The editorial leadership of the journal is running well and is aided in large part by an excellent editorial coordinator (Ms. Jenn Hall) and the editor's proximity to the US offices of Blackwell in Malden, Massachusetts. The adoption of Manuscript Central has helped us manage the submission work load, although we are still working through some bugs evident in Manuscript Central – some of it is due to our inexperience with the program, and some due to the peculiarities of the program. A common challenge is identifying reviewers and obtaining reviews in a timely manner. Manuscript submission is evident at a reasonable rate and our acceptance/ rejection ratio is being tightened. Articles of lesser quality are being rejected or returned for significant revisions at a greater rate than before (when the number of manuscripts per volume was low). A goal in 2008 will be to broaden the editorial board with one or two editors who can help manage the work flow.