



Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities

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

Editor-in-Chief

Matthew P. Janicki, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 870
Rockport, ME 04856
USA

Editorial Board

Giorgio Albertini, M.D.
Roy I. Brown, Ph.D.
Arthur J. Dalton, Ph.D.
David Felce, Ph.D.
Meindert Haveman, Ph.D.
James Hogg, Ph.D.
Anthony J. Holland, Ph.D.
Trevor Parmenter, Ph.D.
Vee Prasher, M.D.
Patricia Noonan Walsh, Ph.D.

Book Review Editor

Roy I. Brown, Ph.D.

Reports Editor

Joav Merrick, M.D.

Report to Council (August 2008)

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

● **Background.** JPPID, established in 2003, is the official journal of the IASSID, and has been underwritten through a grant received from the Toinvest Sanità Organization in Rome, Italy. It is co-owned with Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, which provides editorial support. JPPID is now into its fifth 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; who are both located in Maine (USA).

● **Manuscript Central.** In 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. MC enables authors to submit their article electronically and then track its progress during the review process. MC permits us to assign reviewers and track the progress and submission of the reviews, make editorial decisions, and forward correspondence to the authors. The automated process has some peculiarities, but overall has been very useful as a time-saving tool and mechanism for tracking and submitting for production the manuscripts received and accepted.

● **Wiley-Blackwell.** Ms. Angela Richardson of Wiley-Blackwell (W-B) is our key contact person at Wiley-Blackwell's Boston office; Angela works closely with me and is aided by Gerald Koh, the production editor for JPPID in W-B's Singapore office. Angela is working with me to organize an on-line editorial board meeting for later this year. With respect to other abstracts and indexing, JPPID is part of several abstracting services, and is listed in PsycINFO and Social Care online. In 2006, Wiley-Blackwell organized our acceptance by PsycINFO, the American Psychological Association's indexing service. Applications by W-B have been filed with Cinahl, CIRRIE and

Medline. Additionally an application has gone into Scopus, another such service. We anticipate that JPPID will be accepted within these services by the end of its sixth volume in 2009. Also, W-B will include JPPID into the 'BIG DEAL' [a massive journal subscription package for institutional subscribers] starting in 2010 for on-line access. The BIG DEAL is a marketing tool that W-B uses to promote its journals for institutional buyers. Also, JPPID is part of the offering in Hinari, which provides gratis on-line access for 467 institutions in Europe and 2128 in the rest of the world. Such access is provided to institutions in low income or developing nations.

- **Impact Factor.** With respect to JPPID being listed among those journals with measured impact factors, W-B is resubmitting an application to Thompson ISI this September. If accepted, JPPID will be tracked in ISI from 2009. This means that JPPID would have an Impact Factor in 2011, as the previous two years' articles need to be tracked (2009 and 2010). Also, the 2011 impact factor will come out in June 2012, as ISI spends 6 months collecting all of the citation data. We are optimistic that given our current track record (on-time publication, relevance, and manuscript gravitas) we will be accepted this time around.

- **Status of Articles.** In 2006, we published 31 main manuscript articles. However, since in 2006, we ran 285 pages, 45 pages over the page budget of 240, in 2007 we consequently instituted a closer control over the manuscripts (partly attributed to a new production editor who was more communicative on these matters) and kept fairly well within the 240 pages/per year limit. In 2007, we accepted and published 30 discrete main articles, including those encompassed within a special issue (guest edited by Prof. James Hogg on profound and multiple disabilities). In 2008, we have regularized our production work even more and now maintain a production schedule with Wiley-Blackwell that involves issue manuscript submission on March 10th, June 10th, September 10th, and December 10th. We have also instituted a tighter review procedure for manuscripts that are submitted from other-than-English speaking authors or who are inexperienced with journal-quality writing. In the past we tried to aid 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 to a large degree. An extenuating circumstance is when the topic or work submitted is of such overriding interest, we will invest time in helping with editorial work. In 2008, we included a special issue on comparative social policies, guest edited by Prof. Eric Emerson, to coincide in distribution with the 2008 Cape Town World Congress. To date we have published 30 articles in issues 5-1, 5-2, and 5-3 and eight more are scheduled for issue 5-4. This increase in pages is the result of W-B upping the page allocation for JPPID in 2008 so that we now have 96 pages per volume. At this time, there is no plan to increase the frequency of publication (currently at four issues per year). In 2009, we will also have 96 journal pages and have two special issues potentially coming out, one guest-edited by Profs. Roy Brown, Ivan Brown, and Robert Schalock on applied practices in quality of life, and one guest-edited by Profs. Meindert Haveman and Christine Bigby on recent research in aging. We continue to publish Association news, such as the annual Council minutes and listings of upcoming meetings, as well as book reviews, brief research reports and policy briefs. Our back cover is dedicated to advertising upcoming IASSID conferences.

- **Comments.** The contract between IASSID and W-B relative to JPPID was automatically renewed for a further five year term at the end of 2007. This means that in 2013, the contract will be rolled

over for another 5 year term unless either party gives notice in writing at least twelve months prior (i.e. not later than the end of 2012). The Tosinvest grant for JPPID support ends at the end of 2008 and we are not aware of the status of any further support. 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 Wiley-Blackwell in Malden, Massachusetts. The adoption of Manuscript Central has helped us manage the submission work load. As with many journals, a common challenge is identifying reviewers and obtaining reviews in a timely manner. Manuscript submission is 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), although in reality most articles submitted are of sufficient quality and interest that they generally are assigned a 'revision' recommendation. A goal in 2009 will be to broaden the editorial board with one or two subordinate editors who can help manage the work flow and reviews. I expect also that we may gain some new members for the editorial board. The key objective for the next year will be to broaden our acceptance within abstracting and indexing services and to be recognized by the organization that measures the impact factor.

Submitted
M. Janicki
Editor-in-Chief
18 August 2008 (rev.)