



Editorial

Looking Forward: Amplifying the *Journal of Adolescent Health's* Impact on Adolescent and Young Adult Health



I am pleased to assume the position of Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Adolescent Health (JAH)* on July 1, 2019. After 40 years of extraordinary work by the *Journal's* previous editors-in-chief, editorial staffs, and editorial boards, *JAH* is the leading scientific journal focused on the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults (AYA) [1]. Now that the *Journal* is strong, well-established, and widely-respected, we have the opportunity to focus on increasing the impact *JAH* has on the health of young people.

The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) established the *Journal* in 1980 to promote the development, synthesis, and dissemination of scientific and scholarly knowledge unique to the health needs of adolescents [2]. *JAH* has become a successful multidisciplinary scientific journal, which publishes new research findings in the field, ranging from the basic biological and behavioral sciences to public health and policy. *JAH* publishes original science manuscripts, review articles, letters to the editor, commentaries, and case reports from colleagues across a wide variety of disciplines and from across the globe, all of whom are working to improve the lives of young people, which now intentionally includes both AYA. The success of *JAH* under the leadership of Dr. Charles Irwin over the past 15 years has been truly remarkable, and I am among many who deeply appreciate his vision, dedication, and consistent hard work on behalf of the *Journal* [1,3,4].

During my first year as Editor-in-Chief, I will focus on a smooth transition in *Journal* leadership. I am fortunate that Mr. Tor D. Berg will continue as *JAH* Managing Editor, and Teresa Dal Santo PhD will continue as Editorial Analyst, assuring stability in well-established infrastructure support and processes. I will work closely with the *Journal's* Associate Editors through this transition to refine strategies to move *JAH* forward. Carolyn T. Halpern, Ph.D., from the Gillings School of Public Health, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, will continue as Associate Editor focused on Public Health. David A. Ross, B.M.B.Ch., Ph.D., from the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, will continue as Associate Editor focused on Global Health. Cherrie B. Boyer, Ph.D., from the University of California, San Francisco, CA, will join us as Associate Editor focused on Behavioral and Social Sciences. Catherine M. Gordon, M.D., M.S., from Harvard University, Boston Children's Hospital, in Boston, MA, will join us as Associate Editor focused on Biological, Medical, and Health Care Science. Charles E. Irwin Jr., M.D., will continue supporting the *Journal* in a new role exclusively focused

on publication of *JAH* supplements. Dr. Irwin will continue his work to leverage the publication of supplements in a way that advances practice and science and enhances the global reach of adolescent and young adult health. Within the context of this transition year, I will be developing and implementing strategies to achieve overall goals.

My overall goal as Editor-in-Chief is to maintain the extraordinary success of *JAH* and leverage this success in ways that amplify the impact on AYA health in the U.S. and across the world. *JAH* will continue its clear priority of rapidly publishing important science. I am committed to attracting the submission of high-quality science to *JAH*, high-quality timely review processes, and publication of the best available science to inform efforts to improve AYA health. I am also committed to increasing *JAH* visibility in professional and policy communities, and developing strategies to assure that the importance of science published in *JAH* is made clear to broad audiences in a way that amplifies the impact on AYA health. This is a strategy to maintain our high Journal Impact Factor based on article citation metrics and increase *JAH* impact on the actual health and well-being of young people.

I will support ongoing efforts of SAHM and the *Journal* to include the improvement of young adult health as part of our mission. Identification of *JAH* as the leading scientific journal focused on adolescents as well as young adults sets us apart from other journals and provides *JAH* with unique opportunities to inform strategies to improve health of young people in the second and third decades of life. I also recognize that SAHM is an organization with a very diverse membership, all united in improving the health and well-being of young people. The Society was formed 50 years ago by clinicians in the U.S. and is now a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to supporting its members who are active in clinical care, research, teaching, program development, and policy across the globe. One important way that *JAH* has impact is by publishing material that is useful to SAHM members as they do their work. The *Journal* will be committed to publishing the best available science to inform the work of all SAHM members and agendas. I will also expand the newly initiated "Perspectives on Adolescence and Young Adulthood" section to reflect the art and science of AYA health and health care through the publication of narratives, poetry, photographs, and visual art from health professionals, youth, and families [1,5–7]. Material in this section will add richness to *Journal* content, provide a platform for highlighting important

aspects of our work that go beyond science, and be available to enhance teaching and advocacy activities. This section will be led by a new Section Editor working with a specialized editorial group.

My overall strategy for leading *JAH* will recognize my full responsibility for the content and quality of *Journal*, while also valuing the importance of collaboration. I will be structuring activities to enhance collaboration among the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, new Section Editors, and members of the Editorial Board. I am committed to diverse perspectives informing the work of the *Journal*, including diversity across the domains of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, geography, and discipline. I recognize the value and importance of collaborating with experts who are members and who are not members of SAHM, as all make critically important contributions to the *Journal*.

New challenges will emerge. Debates about Open Access in publishing will continue and likely escalate in the foreseeable future [8,9]. Implementing strategies to push messages about the importance of science published in *JAH* to broad audiences, particularly messages about controversial topics, may be associated with some risks. The ever-evolving communication landscape including social media and new technology will need to be taken into account as we move forward.

I am confident that *JAH* will successfully address these challenges and other unexpected challenges based on the *Journal's* legacy of unwavering commitment to publishing science on behalf of AYA health. As a long-standing SAHM member, previous SAHM President, member of the *JAH* Editorial Board from 2004 to 2014, and *JAH* Associate Editor from 2015 to 2019, I have a deep understanding of the importance of *JAH* in publishing

science-based strategies to improve the lives of young people and their families. The long-standing partnership between *JAH* and Elsevier, our publishing company, and between the *JAH* Editorial Team and Elsevier Publisher, Mr. Luke Verrillo, is strong. It is within this context that I look forward to becoming the next *JAH* Editor-in-Chief and the opportunity to provide *JAH* the leadership it needs to amplify its extraordinary success and increase *JAH* impact on AYA health.

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