**[Editorial]**

**JSR: 50 years on and going strong…**

 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the *Journal of Sex Research*, making it the longest running of the sexology and gender-related journals. We celebrated the anniversary with a plenary symposium (“The next 50 years of sexual science – where do we go from here?”) and a reception held at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS) in Omaha. All four of the symposium presenters (William Fisher, Janet Hyde, Shari Dworkin, and Debby Herbenick) are Consulting Editors of the journal and one of our Associate Editors, Margaret Rosario, served as the discussant. The presentations – on topics ranging from gender and sexuality, sexual science dissemination, sex research in the global south, and the role of activism in sex research journals– sparked lively discussion and highlighted some of the key challenges facing researchers.

 Notwithstanding the challenges, there were a number of reasons to celebrate this anniversary. The journal at 50 is in good shape. New submissions to the journal have steadily increased in recent years. In 2014 we received 399 new manuscripts (up from 349 in 2013). Despite the increase in submissions, our average turnaround time (mean time from submission to first decision letter) is approximately 50 days. In 2015 we are increasing the number of issues; including the ARSR issue, an issue devoted to comprehensive reviews of current topics in sexual science, we will publish 9 issues per year. While the mean time from manuscript acceptance to publication online ahead of print is currently just eight weeks, the increase in issues will reduce the backlog of articles waiting to be placed into print issues.

The number of article downloads also increased in 2014. Some of the most downloaded articles last year were on topics that are currently receiving much attention in both scholarly literature and in the media – for example, the pornography industry (Griffith et al. “Pornography actresses: an assessment of the damaged goods hypothesis”) and the association between hooking up and mental health (Bersamin et al. “Risky business: is there an association between casual sex and mental health among emerging adults?”). Citations of JSR articles have also increased in the past few years. The Impact Factor is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in the journal (Garfield, 2006). The journal’s Impact Factor, calculated each year by Web of Science® (Thomson Reuters), jumped from 1.948 in 2012 to 2.730 in 2013. JSR was ranked 2nd out of 92 journals in the Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary category and 26th out of 111 journals in the Psychology, Clinical category.

In 2014 we welcomed a new Associate Editor, Zoe Peterson, who joined the other four Associate Editors – Dennis Fortenberry, Osmo Kontula, Margaret Rosario, and John Wincze. As the number of submissions has steadily increased, the workload on the Associate Editors has intensified. All of the Associate Editors do an outstanding job and I am continually grateful to work with this amazing team. Last year we added two new Consulting Editors to the Editorial Board – Amy Lykins and Michael Seto; and there are now 36 Consulting Editors. After serving a five-year term as the Annual Review of Sex Research (ARSR) Editor, Jacques van Lankveld stepped down and Sari van Anders became incoming ARSR Editor. Thank you to Jacques for his hard work and sustained vision for the ARSR and welcome to Sari, who has already begun working on the 2016 issue and is brimming with creative ideas for ARSR topics.

In 2014 I was asked by our publishers to revisit the aims and scope of the journal (<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=hjsr20#.VKQmMEuXTgV>). The primary aim of the journal (“to stimulate research and promote an interdisciplinary understanding of the diverse topics in contemporary sexual science”) remains unchanged, but there are some changes in the types of articles we accept. Since last year we are no longer publishing book or media reviews. Although the majority of our submissions are empirical reports, we welcome brief reports, review articles, methodological articles, commentaries, and letters to the editor. Guidelines for brief reports can be found in the Instructions to Authors section of the website

(<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=hjsr20&page=instructions#.VKQn-EuXTgU>).

JSR has always actively encouraged submissions from researchers outside of North America and in the last few years, the number of submissions from some regions e.g., Asia have increased. There are challenges, however, for authors whose first language is not English and I am pleased to report that last year SSSS agreed to provide some funding to offer language-editing services to authors submitting to JSR. While this funding will be available initially only to a small number of authors, it is a step in the right direction and we are grateful to the SSSS Board for their support.

We have a strong commitment to the next generation of sex researchers. In an editorial I wrote in 2008 when I started as Editor, I particularly encouraged younger researchers to submit to the journal. We also invite younger researchers to consider reviewing manuscripts; many of our long-time reviewers are providing mentorship of their graduate students completing reviews and this often works very well.

Going forward, I welcome ideas for special issues and commentary articles from authors, reviewers, and readers and feedback on how to improve any aspect of the journal. We now publish a quarterly E-newsletter, which provides free access to top-cited articles from the journal (to subscribe, email enewsletters@taylorandfrancis.com with a subject heading “Subscribe to JSR E-newsletter”). We also work with authors to send out press releases of articles and encourage authors to use social media to disseminate the results of their research to the public, as well as to other academics.

I want to extend my thanks to the Associate Editors, ARSR Editor, reviewers, and authors of the journal, SSSS (in particular, Executive Director Mandy Peters), and our ever-supportive publishers, Taylor and Francis and the team there. Lastly, a special thank you to James Hardcastle, metrics expert at Taylor and Francis for his patience with all of my questions about the impact factor!

As we look forward to the next 50 years, I am confident that the journal will continue to thrive, stimulate debate, and inspire the very best sexual science research.

Cynthia A. Graham

Editor-in-Chief

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