Advancing practice and improving the lives of children and adolescents at risk for, or struggling with, mental illness is the central mission of this *Journal*. And the method through which the *Journal* supports these advances is through the dissemination of research that is well designed, carefully conducted, and properly interpreted and placed within the existing knowledge base. Given this, assuring the scientific integrity of the research we publish is of paramount importance.

Bias can be introduced to a study at any stage of the research process. Study design, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of findings are all subject to bias. Indeed, a central role of peer review is to identify potential biases in the conduct and reporting of research results. A reviewer may identify, for example, issues with the size and representativeness of the study sample, measures utilized, failure to adjust *a priori* criteria for statistical significance when conducting multiple tests, and the overstatement or skewed interpretation of study findings. Publication bias,1 the failure of researchers to publish their research (especially negative findings) distorts the published literature, especially as positive studies are more likely to be published than negative ones.2

At its core, the scientific method and its evolution over the last three millennia is an effort to minimize bias in an effort to see the natural world with greater objectivity.3 But minimizing bias is far from simple because bias is, in the end, part and parcel of our humanity.4,5 Given this, there is perhaps no more important role of a journal such as this one than to support a thorough and carefully vetting of the papers submitted to it. Indeed, peer-reviewed journals have their own place in the scientific method, part of the “critical discussion” to seek scientific objectivity that Karl Popper referred to as “the friendly-hostile cooperation of scientists”6(pp. 93-94).

In the coming months, we will write to you periodically about how our *Journal* strives to assure the scientific integrity of what we publish. The first installment of this series, focused on conflicts of interest, appears in this issue of the *Journal*. We look forward to an ongoing conversation about the integrity of the science that is so critical for improving the mental health of the children and adolescents in our communities.

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