

BJHP- continuing to increase the profile of health psychology research

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Editorial

BJHP- continuing to increase the profile of health psychology research

Madelynne A. Arden & Joseph Chilcot

As incoming joint editors of the British Journal of Health Psychology we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing editors: Professors Alison Wearden and David French. Alison and David have co-edited the journal for the last five years, during which time they have maintained the excellent reputation of the journal for publishing high quality research in the field of health psychology, a reputation which is highlighted by the substantial increase in Impact Factor during their editorship from 1.991 (in 2012) to 2.551 (2016); a very hard act to follow!

We have both acted as Associate Editors for the British Journal of Health Psychology over the last few years and so understand the crucial role that our Associate Editors, members of the International Advisory Board, and members of the Scholars panel play in making the journal a success. We would like to thank them for their ongoing hard work and commitment, and look forward to working with them. We would also like to thank our many reviewers, past and present, who have taken the time to carefully read and review our submissions.

We are not planning on making many changes to the successful formula of our predecessors, however, following an analysis of review times across British Psychological Society (BPS) journals we have decided to reduce the standard time for reviews from 28 to 21 days. Two factors have influenced this decision: First, that authors are increasingly seeking journals with a speedy review process; and second, that other BPS journals that have already trialled a 21 day review time have noticed a substantial reduction in review times. We will monitor the effect of this change over the coming months. Submissions to the journal have increased annually and as editors we will continue

to read all new manuscripts so that we can screen out those which fall outside of the journals remit or which are not of a sufficiently high scientific or academic standard to merit further review.

It is important to us that the review and decision process is transparent and to that end we have decided to require any contributions to BJHP from Associate Editors or Editors to include a Conflict of interest statement that explains from whom those contributions have been made, and that the authors have had no role in the reviewing or decision-making process for those manuscripts. This process is already usual practice for BJHP but we think it is important that this is made explicit so that there can be no future misunderstandings around this issue. All authors are already asked to declare any conflicts of interest during the submission process and this information is included at the end of each accepted manuscript.

Given the increasing importance of demonstrating the impact of published research, and the role of Altmetrics for researchers in providing evidence of this impact, we will seek to further develop the profile and social media presence of articles published in BJHP.

We would very much like to encourage contributions to the journals from all areas of health psychology, and welcome excellent research that makes a substantial and original contribution to knowledge using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. We are keen to publish systematic reviews including meta-analyses, that progress knowledge in the field as well as articles dealing with methodological issues relevant to health psychology, for example n-of-1. We are considering a number of special issues which will put together papers around a particular theme in health psychology, and would welcome suggestions of themes that readers could contribute to or would like to see published. We would also welcome suggestions for topical and valuable editorials. We would also like to highlight the trial period, for two years from September 2017, during which open access fees for accepted articles (following the usual review process and terms and conditions) will be waived for BPS members.

We very much look forward to receiving your submissions and to working with you over the next three years.