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Editorial Comment: Turning the Corner at Analysis of Gambling Behavior

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EDITORIAL COMMENT: TURNING THE CORNER AT *ANALYSIS OF GAMBLING BEHAVIOR*

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Although it may not be apparent by the current issue, *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* has turned a corner of sorts. In the past, we have received a sufficient number of submissions from a small group of researchers and laboratories to support a high-quality journal. We are fortunate that we are still receiving quality submissions from those same researchers and laboratories. What has changed, however, is that the journal is now receiving unsolicited submissions from researchers and laboratories from across the country and world that represent new contributors to the journal.

The journal has been graced by the fact that the submissions that it has received to date have generally been good quality, behavior-analytic studies of gambling behavior. We have also benefitted from the skills of a large number of reviewers, who have helped ensure that the submissions that were ultimately accepted for publication met high standards of scientific quality. My compliments go out to both previous authors in the journal and the reviewers who helped make those contributions as strong as they could be.

That is not to say, however, that the journal has published all the papers that have been submitted. It has not. Admittedly, the acceptance rate at *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* has been higher than one might find at long-standing, highly respected journals that receive far more submissions than they could possibly publish. We have not had that luxury. However, we also have not had to deal with a large number of submissions that were clearly below the standards and mission of journal.

By my calculations, the majority of the research papers that have been submitted to *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* and have ultimately been published were initially reviewed as “revise and resubmit.” Nearly 15% of the research papers that have been submitted to the journal have not been accepted for publication and have not been published. Again, that percentage is likely not high enough for researchers in the field to consider *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* a highly competitive journal, at least when it comes to acceptance rates. On the other hand, it does indicate that we do not simply publish manuscripts because they are submitted to the journal.

The impetus for penning this editorial comment is to inform readers and potential contributors to *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* that the acceptance rates will most likely be decreasing in the future. As noted before, the journal continues to receive research papers from laboratories that have been consistent contributors to the journal since its inception. It is now also receiving a solid number of submissions from different laboratories that represent novel submitters to the journal. For the first time in the journal’s history, we now stand at the point at which accepted articles are queued for upcoming issues rather than being immediately published in the next issue.

As the number of submissions increases, and I am certainly hopeful that the recent rise in submissions will continue, the editorial board will have the opportunity to become more discriminating in the papers that get accepted. That does not necessarily mean that

they will, or that they should. Rather, it represents the opportunity for the board to re-evaluate the mission of the journal and to make future decisions on submitted manuscripts based solely on that mission. The peripheral contingencies of making sure that the journal had enough articles to publish a legitimate issue are (hopefully) no longer in play. And that is a good thing.

I know a good number of the past contributors to the journal on a personal basis. I certainly want to thank them for their efforts as well as their willingness to have their work represented on the pages of *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*. I also sincerely hope that now, as the journal appears to have turned the corner, they continue to see the journal as a viable outlet for their research and that the journal continues to see submissions from their research programs.

On the flip side, I also certainly do not want to see the journal become exclusive. That is, where one can find journals that are the private publishing ground of the editorial board of that journal, I would like to encourage people from outside the editorial board to submit their work when that work fits within the scope of the journal. At present, the number of submissions from this group seems to be growing. I think I speak on behalf of the entire editorial board when I say that is a good thing and we hope that it continues.

Which, in conclusion, brings me to the present issue of the journal. As I noted at the beginning of this editorial comment, one might not be able to discern the truth of my comments given that a large proportion of the articles in the present issue come from my laboratory. That will hopefully not be the case in future issues. With that said, however, I plan to continue an active research program on the behavior-analytic study of gambling behavior and I certainly view *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* as an excellent outlet for that work. So, do not be surprised to see the work from my laboratory and students in fu-

ture issues of the journal! And consistent with the above comments, should the board become increasingly discriminating in what articles get accepted for publication in the journal, I certainly expect that my work will be subjected to the same standards as every other work that gets submitted to *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*.

Jeffrey N. Weatherly
Executive Editor
Analysis of Gambling Behavior