

# Editorial

## New Editor's Message

I want to thank the NCRE Executive Board for allowing me to serve as the new Editor for *Rehabilitation Education*. In accepting this responsibility, I hope to build on the fine work of the previous Co-editors, Drs. John Kosciulek and Joe Wheaton. My overall goal as Editor is to enhance the quality of manuscripts and increase the number of submissions that we receive. Toward this effort, I am instituting several changes.

First, effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, all manuscripts submitted to the journal will be reviewed using a new electronic platform through Manuscript Central. The software program we will use is called ScholarOne. In order to submit a manuscript, authors need to visit the following website: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/re>. Once entered into the system, authors will be able to check on the status of their manuscripts at any given time. As part of the review process, I am continuing a practice implemented by the previous Co-editors which allowed reviewers to read reactions provided by other reviewers assigned to the manuscript. In this way, reviewers will be able to assess the quality of reviews produced and hopefully continue to improve their skills.

Second, the NCRE Executive Board allowed me to retain the services of a Copy Editor, and, in consultation with our publisher Dr. Tim Field, we will retain the services of Anita Turlington. I will also be enlisting the services of Dawn Brislin, who will serve as an Editorial Assistant. Dawn will assist me in ensuring that initial submissions follow APA publication guidelines and that references are complete, accurate, and cited properly. With the combined efforts of reviewer input, editor feedback, and copy editing services, I hope that we can reduce errors that can detract from article content value. As you can see by the new cover design, while Tim and I have changed the look of the journal, even more important is our commitment to produce a journal that reflects good scholarship that is relevant to our readers. I also want to add that I am very pleased and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Tim again.

Third, I want to respond in a timely and constructive manner to authors. It is my goal that an initial decision regarding all new manuscript submissions will be made within 60 days once they are registered online through Manuscript Central. I also want reviewers to provide timely and constructive feedback to authors and will work with reviewers to make sure this occurs. Reviewers play a critical

yet often thankless role for their efforts. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of persons who view this work as an important part of their professional service. Interested persons who want to serve as Editorial Board members should contact me. New reviewers will be appointed to an ad hoc panel, and, upon successful performance, will be appointed as regular board members.

I also want to mention that this year we have planned a special issue on the topic of international rehabilitation. Drs. Nan Hampton and Caren Saxe are serving as Co-editors for this special issue. Nan and Caren have done a great job soliciting manuscripts addressing rehabilitation education practices throughout the world. I believe that this special issue will help us better appreciate the contributions of educational practices from other countries that perhaps have greater relevance to our own work than we might initially realize. Please note that the NCRE Executive Board instituted a new policy last year to approve only one special issue for any given publication year. Interested persons who want to submit a written proposal for a special topic issue should follow information in the Author Guidelines section. Additional information regarding special issue proposals can be located by visiting the journal website at: <http://www.rehabeducators.org/>.

Finally, although we had a strong turnout at the recent NCRE Conference in San Diego, many rehabilitation educators were not able to attend. This year, in consultation with the program chairpersons, I decided to provide readers with abstracts of accepted programs. In this way, other rehabilitation educators who could not attend the conference or a particular session will have an opportunity to network with presenters. I hope you find this information useful to your scholarship and teaching. Please also note that all of the other manuscripts in this issue were accepted under the previous editorship.

I look forward to working with you over the next four years and encourage you to submit articles relevant to rehabilitation education. I hope that with the combined resources available we can produce a journal that advances the field of rehabilitation education and ultimately benefits persons with disabilities. I also welcome your ideas and input in making the journal stronger and relevant to your work as rehabilitation educators.

James T. Herbert