

Editorial

James G. Daley

I am humbled and energized as I take the reins as editor of this wonderful journal. *Advances in Social Work*, now in its third year of publication, has firmly created its place as a source of scholarly excellence in the growing volume of professional journals. Our mission is straightforward. We strive to be both conduit and standards setter. There are many superb scholars who conduct groundbreaking and vital theoretical and empirical studies. We hope to be an inviting way to get their work showcased to the world. We work hard to get manuscripts reviewed as quickly as possible and get them into print. Our review process is rigorous, with some of the finest scholars serving as our reviewers. We invite you to consider us for that manuscript that deserves to be shared with the world.

Besides serving as a conduit, the journal seeks to produce issues that coalesce state-of-the-art research and theory in a manner that pushes the field of social work to a more in-depth consideration of important topics. In the future, we will be developing special issues that will explore a topic in more depth and capability than any one article could provide. We hope to offer a thoughtful, useful issue that will serve as a valuable resource for the social workers and other professionals in urgent need of the latest knowledge.

The profession of social work exists in an information overloading and complex environment in which social workers must gather knowledge, analyze the best technologies, and create useful intervention strategies that produce empirically verified outcomes that benefit our clients. We are accountable to everyone and our very survival stems from justifying our actions. Other professions are rapidly developing best practice protocols, eroding profession-specific boundaries, and asserting claims that they, rather than social workers, are more capable, evidence-based, and resourceful. Fortunately, social work has a proud heritage of capability and has itself launched a myriad of best practice initiatives. Our mission, blending client-focused skills and effective societal advocacy, continues to be desperately needed and invaluable as a contribution to improving our world.

This journal is an important part of that social work mission. As editor, I accept a leadership role in supporting that mission. This issue exemplifies that commitment to excellence. The six articles provide you with a rich variety of thoughtful, useful information. The topics range from training social workers to using spirituality in practice, online social work practice, contrasting rural and urban differences in clients, issues of professional liability and risk, poetry therapy as a useful technique, and a more in-depth examination of substance abuse and suicidal behavior in young adult women. This issue should offer stimulating reading and education. It continues our effort to give the reader a depth and breadth of information that strengthens your skills.

I hope you enjoy the issue. I look forward to the vibrant path that this journal is taking. Stick around and watch what happens. It will be exciting!