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Editor's Note

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I would like to start off this editorial note by offering my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the authors and reviewers that have entrusted the *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation* (JMDE) with your scholarship, especially this year as we've worked to transition our journal. Your patience and encouragement have meant the world to those of us on the editorial team producing this important resource.

I am excited to be the new executive editor, except for the reason that advanced me into the position. In late October 2021, we tragically lost the former executive editor and director of the Interdisciplinary PhD in Evaluation (IDPE) program, Dr. Chris Coryn. In my role as faculty in the IDPE and associate editor of JMDE, I stepped up to take over both the journal and the program. Dr. Coryn's departure left holes in a lot of hearts and we on the editorial team are committed to keeping his memory alive. That's why we have decided to create a special section in the journal's next issue to memorialize his life and contribution to our field. We have a few authors and colleagues writing tributes, but we want more. If you would like to contribute to this special section, please reach out to me with your ideas for a contribution.

This has been a busy year for the JMDE leadership team. I want to publicly acknowledge the efforts of the team that has stepped up to improve upon the model that was being managed largely by Dr. Coryn into a more refined journal with important clarifications. I am so very grateful for the support of Drs. Lyssa Becho, Gregory Greenman II, Aaron Kates, Abhik Roy, Daniela Schroeter, Corey Smith, and Carl Westine, as well as Robert McCowen. And, of course, we are all grateful to the support of Mary Ramlow!

A few of the important accomplishments we have made this year are:

- Initiated the process of having JMDE indexed by Scopus, Google Scholar, and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ);
- Defined the roles and responsibilities for the journal's editorial board, which you will see published soon on the site (please consider taking a role and joining the team!);
- Developed a memo of understanding with the WMU Evaluation Center that refines its role as a key steward and fiscal sponsor of JMDE;
- Advanced 3 special issues with the help of some amazing special issue editors; and
- Upgraded the online system to keep it current and well-functioning.

One of the things the editorial team decided on this year is a commitment to putting out a minimum of 2 regular issues each year. These will generally be in Spring (~April) and Fall (~October), but may fluctuate a bit, depending upon submissions and reviewer support. If the pace of submissions and reviews continue as we have seen in the last few years, I expect us to move to 3 annual issues within a few years. In fact, in quick succession, you should see three special issues coming out in the first half of 2023.

We have also committed to a stronger focus on sections within the journal and having editors assigned to each section. This is a great opportunity for those of you with some special interest you want to bring to the journal, such as international VOPE representations, or young and emerging evaluator scholars (YEE-S). Keep an eye on our website as we update it with sections, roles, and responsibilities early in 2023. While we have some sections already identified for the journal (e.g., research articles, book reviews, ideas to consider), we are very interested in what you think should be covered in a regular issue. If you have

some ideas on how we can expand or improve our content, please put a proposal together and send it to me.

That brings me around to the future of the journal. Over this last year, as we have transitioned the journal to new leadership, we have had many discussions about what we want for its future. Often, we have revisited Michael Scriven's original vision for the journal (Scriven, 2004) and found it to be well-aligned with where we think JMDE should go. Some of this is embedded in our decisions I've highlighted above in my mentions of different sections, roles and responsibilities, indexing, etc. But others are less obvious, and I want to just expend a bit of electronic ink on them here. We want JMDE to be YOUR journal that evolves with the times and presents a space where thoughtful dialogue can occur with only a little curation on our part. That means that, like all three special issues in the works, you can suggest a special topic and curate a set of manuscripts that address it and we will provide the space for you to publish them. That also means that you will be responsible for upholding the kind of quality we all expect to see in an important discipline journal. During the development of one such special issue (due out early in 2023), Sanjeev Sridharan and I have been talking about how JMDE can support something like a "South-South-North" dialogue where we serve as the venue where voices usually unheard can put their thoughts out for contemplation and refinement. His special issue may start a trend where we set aside a section in following issues for comments specifically on his special issue articles. Another topic central to our vision is a commitment to open access. In this era of

constrained budgets, Universities are constantly working to reduce costs and raise more revenue. Western Michigan University is no different. In the ongoing discussion of funding the Interdisciplinary PhD in Evaluation, we wanted to make sure JMDE did not weigh down those discussions and we are so grateful that The Evaluation Center, under the excellent leadership of Dr. Lori Wingate, has stepped up to provide fiscal sponsorship. While this has some relative sustainability to it, we are also looking for a longer-term solution that does not depend upon the good graces of one sponsor. If you have any ideas on how to keep JMDE fiscally solvent, while maintaining open access, please reach out with your ideas.

The JMDE continues to generate wide interest. In 2022 (till Dec 28) the journal had 68,829 article downloads, averaging 5,736 per month, from 198 countries. Since our metrics began (~2007) we have had 532,233 article downloads, with a median of 392 per article for the 409 articles in the JMDE archives. There are 3,141 registered user accounts, which includes 2,368 authors and 679 reviewers (if you haven't visited www.JMDE.com recently, please take a few minutes to log in and update your profile). These metrics remind me that the JMDE has a healthy readership from around the world and my sincere hope is that we continue to generate the sort of scholarship that brings authors and readers back to our pages, again and again.

With sincerity and humility, thank you for your interest in, and support of the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation!

Reference

Scriven, M. (2004). Mission for the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Evaluation*.