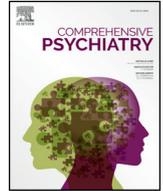




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Letter to authors

Dear colleague,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the new Editor-in-chief of *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, to introduce some of the recent improvements that affect the scope and operational management of the Journal. I hope this will be of value when you come to consider submitting your scientific work for peer reviewed publication.

January 2019 marks a new chapter for *Comprehensive Psychiatry*. Building upon the legacy of my eminent predecessors, and supported by an expanded and truly international team of editors and peer reviewers, including clinical and preclinical scientists, I am committed to strengthening the Journal in its new role as a broad scope, fully open access, peer-reviewed psychiatric journal.

Comprehensive Psychiatry will continue to cover all aspects of psychiatry and mental health, publishing high quality papers with a particular emphasis on the clinical implications of the work. Our mission is to disseminate cutting edge knowledge in order to improve patient care and advance the understanding of mental illness.

We believe strongly in the importance of a truly comprehensive approach to Psychiatry and welcome submissions from diverse fields, including preclinical science, to advance our mission. To this end, we aim to work co-operatively with authors to optimize the accessibility of the work so as to engage as fully as possible with clinicians from multidisciplinary backgrounds and the lay public. Consistent with the Journal's heritage, we will also be introducing a Special

Section dedicated to Understanding Psychopathology. We have redesigned our cover and will also be refining our editorial practices to reflect these improvements (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/comprehensive-psychiatry>).

The importance of replicating and substantiating new findings, such as emerging treatment developments, in relevant populations, represents an ongoing challenge for medical science and for Psychiatry in particular. While the pros and cons of open access publication have been debated widely in the scientific literature, including in the editorial pages of this Journal, I and my editorial team strongly believe a move to open-access publication is likely to represent a helpful step forward. Simply put, science benefits when the optimal dissemination strategies are used to communicate new findings. Investing in unlimited access allows greater opportunity for other scientists to contribute to the discourse, and for clinicians to contextualise and where relevant apply the information in their clinical work. Through our new open access policy, coupled with rigorous peer review, we expect our papers will deliver the widest global impact, opening up fruitful scientific engagement with researchers outside the immediate circle, as well as with mental health clinicians, interested policy-makers and the public.

Wishing you all a very happy and fruitful 2019.

Naomi A. Fineberg
 Editor-in-chief, *Comprehensive Psychiatry*