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New name, new Advisory Board, new ethics guidelines

This is our 11th issue and it brings happy changes. Our Editorial Board unanimously voted for a name change and we are now the *Journal of Gambling Issues (JGI)*. The change reflects the normalization of electronic publishing.

We warmly welcome the 17 clinicians and researchers who form the new international Advisory Board for the *JGI*. We invited them to advise us on policies and content and to alert us to strategic publishing possibilities (specific topics, special issues, and notable emerging researchers, clinicians, and authors). In everyday language, they will tell us about our shortcomings and notify us about opportunities in gambling topics, research, and clinical approaches. Their names and affiliations are given below.

Standards in scholarly publishing are in flux and the threshold for acceptable ethical practice rises constantly. Editorial policies that were considered progressive 10 years ago might now be seen as bordering on neglect. Some medical journals have taken the lead in requiring greater openness and transparency by authors of peer-reviewed articles with regard to their participation (Who was specifically involved in which areas of research and analysis? Who wrote which parts of the article?), funding, and potential competing interests (Do authors have financial involvements or memberships that could potentially be seen to bias their involvement?). The *JGI* Editorial Board unanimously adopted ethical guidelines that were developed by the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) and summarized in the Farmington Consensus. This brief ethics statement sets out the current standards for ethical publishing practices for research in addictions. It now constitutes our guide in publishing a journal that is current in terms of scholarly openness and accountability.

Beginning with this issue, all articles will have information to help readers know where the authors stand in terms of their commitments. Even articles that are not peer reviewed and letters to the editor will have statements of the authors' competing interests. Peer-reviewed articles will have statements on (a) each

author's role in producing the article, (b) competing interests for each author, (c) details of the ethics-approval process for projects involving human or animal subjects, and (d) the funding that allowed the article to be written. For the sake of openness, a future *JGI* editorial will describe the process of article submission, peer review, acceptance, and publication at the *JGI*.

For the ISAJE statement on publishing ethics and the Farmington Consensus as adopted by *JGI*, please see <http://www.isaje.net/> and click on "Publishing Ethics" - the ninth item in the left-hand margin. This site also has interesting information about ISAJE.

In line with this policy of openness, the editor makes this declaration:

Statement of competing interests: The editor is an employee of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada.

Ethical approval: None is required for editorial activities.

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Please contact us with your comments about the *JGI*: Phil_Lange@camh.net

Statement of purpose

The *Journal of Gambling Issues (JGI)* offers an Internet-based forum for developments in gambling-related research, policy and treatment as well as personal accounts about gambling and gambling behaviour. Through publishing peer-reviewed articles about gambling as a social phenomenon and the prevention and treatment of gambling problems, it is our aim is to help make sense of how gambling affects us all.

The *JGI* is published by the [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) and is fully funded by the Ontario Substance Abuse Bureau of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. We welcome manuscripts submitted by researchers and clinicians, people involved in gambling as players, and family and friends of gamblers.

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