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New editorial board structure and new editorial board members

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Role: editor-in-chief

Dear colleagues:

This is the third issue of the *Journal of Gambling Issues (JGI)* since I began as editor-in-chief. With this issue, I am pleased to announce some changes to the editorial board structure and composition. I have very much enjoyed collaborating thus far with our highly dedicated, hard-working editorial board that has offered me invaluable advice and counsel from a variety of perspectives and disciplines within the gambling field. Editorial board members attend between two and four board meetings annually, routinely review papers for the journal, and respond to regular email queries from the editors (e.g., providing advice on invited papers, commenting on editorials). Until recently, the board was made up entirely of individuals from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto – the journal's home. Discussions at board meetings converged in a shared vision to have the *JGI* become a more nationally-representative journal.

The current board membership includes 3 editors (editor-in-chief, associate editor, managing editor), 9 voting editorial board members, and one ex-officio position. To move toward our vision of having the journal become more nationally-representative, we felt it would be important to include within the editorial board membership, the perspectives of other experts in the gambling field from across the country. We began this process with me joining as the editor-in-chief in 2010 and through our more recent addition of an associate editor, Dr. Serge Sevigny, from Quebec who is managing the new upcoming French language section of the journal. We would also be remiss if we did not acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our book reviews editor, Marianna Toce-Gerstein, from California.

The board also decided that a useful next step would be to begin the process of adding known gambling experts from Canadian regions outside of CAMH/Toronto /Ontario to the editorial board. However, we wanted to do this without increasing the size of the editorial board. Thus, we recently modified editorial board

membership from the previous “open” timeline to a finite three year term. Each autumn, we will revisit board membership from the perspective of this new rotating board structure. Previous board members may be invited to return to the board after a hiatus of at least one year. When board members are on hiatus, they may choose to remain involved with the journal through membership on the international advisory panel (IAP). The IAP was created in 2004 and has a role to advise the editors on policies and content, and to alert us to strategic publishing opportunities (e.g., possible special issues, notable emerging gambling researchers and clinicians).

In implementing this new rotating editorial board model, we are pleased to announce the addition of two new voting members to the editorial board – Dr. David Hodgins from the University of Calgary in Alberta and Dr. Richard Wood from GamRes Limited in Quebec. Prior to their appointments to the editorial board, Dr. Hodgins was involved in our IAP and Dr. Wood was active as an *ad hoc* reviewer for the journal. We are very pleased to have these two gambling research experts join the editorial board and look forward to their increased contributions to the journal in this capacity. We also extend our sincere thanks to two previous editorial board members, Dr. Bruce Ballon and Dr. Tony Toneatto, who have agreed to step down from the editorial board this year to make room for our new members. It is difficult to summarize the extraordinary involvement and input that Drs. Ballon and Toneatto have had on the journal over the past decade—their dedication in developing and fostering of the journal since its inception has been vital to its success. We are pleased that they will both remain involved with the journal through membership on the IAP.

With these changes, our 9 current voting board members are: Robert Murray, Nigel Turner, Peter Ferentzy, Martin Zack, Nina Littman-Sharp, Daniela Lobo, Sheila Lacroix, Richard Wood, and David Hodgins. Wayne Skinner remains in the ex-officio position, Daryl Boshart as managing editor, Serge Sevigny as associate editor, and myself as editor-in-chief. In implementing the rotating board membership model, we will take factors such as regional representation, area of gambling expertise (e.g., clinical vs. epidemiological vs. neuroscience), and discipline (e.g., clinical psychology vs. social work) into account when making future appointments to the editorial board. I hope you will agree that these exciting changes to the editorial board structure and composition fit well with our longer term goal of increasing the *JGI*'s visibility and impact by fostering a more national scope for the journal.

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