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Letter from the Editors

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Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2021 issue! This comes a year after the pandemic which changed how many of us live day to day. Many of our *JADARA* readers and contributors continue to commit to fight and work through the COVID19 virus - we thank you for your continued commitment to public health.

Before we begin outlining our plans below, we are standing with our family and friends who are Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). We condemn the systemic, racialized violence that harms members of our BIPOC and AAPI community. The recent murders and violence towards these community members deepen wounds from centuries of injustices. The hostile rhetoric about the BIPOC communities throughout the pandemic has put our family and friends at risk of attack and in danger. It is incumbent upon us to stand with our community members and be a part of a much needed change in addressing issues of racism, xenophobia, and violence. Drs. Thew Hackett and Kobek Pezzarossi are committed to spotlighting these issues and in examining our own biases as we work to create a *JADARA* inclusive of all. This also includes forming a workshop to increase the number of *JADARA* authors who are BIPOC and AAPI, as well as expanding the Editorial Review Board members.

This Letter from the Editors will cover several topics. First, Dr. Denise Thew Hackett was recently promoted to serve as the Chairperson of the Division of Deaf Studies and Professional Studies while continuing to coordinate the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program. As a result of this change, Dr. Thew Hackett invited the immediate past *JADARA* editor, Dr. Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi, to return and serve as a co-Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Kobek Pezzarossi accepted the invitation without hesitation. They will work together on multiple transition plans for 2021 and these plans will be outlined below:

- 1) Both Drs. Thew Hackett and Kobek Pezzarossi believed, individually and collectively, being an Editor-in-Chief for *JADARA* has been a rewarding experience, and this role has helped both with their career advancements and to develop a 360-degree understanding of the scientific research and peer-review publication process. We want to extend this opportunity to the next person who shares a similar passion. A new position is being created and will be the Associate Editor. This person is still being identified and will be able to begin as soon as the Summer 2021 months. This Associate Editor will be mentored by both Drs. Thew Hackett and Kobek Pezzarossi for the year and then this person will gain the title "Editor-in-Chief" while both Drs. Thew Hackett and Kobek

Pezzarossi will step down in a supportive role. The new Editor-in-Chief will select their Associate Editor to work together for several years, renewable by the ADARA Board members.

To be considered for the *JADARA* Associate Editor, please submit your curriculum vitae, a cover letter outlining your strengths and how your contribution would benefit *JADARA*. Please send this to thewd@wou.edu and caroline.kobek.pezzarossi@gallaudet.edu with the subject line stating “*JADARA* Associate Editor”.

- 2) We are looking for reviewers to join the *JADARA* Editorial Review Board with expertise in various areas in counseling, policy, vocational rehabilitation, public health, medical/health, integrated practice, various statistical backgrounds, just to name a few. Please also consider nominating yourself or others you feel would be a good fit for this position.

To be considered for the *JADARA* Editorial Review Board, please submit your curriculum vitae, a cover letter outlining your strengths and how your contribution would benefit *JADARA*. Please send this to thewd@wou.edu and caroline.kobek.pezzarossi@gallaudet.edu with the subject line stating “*JADARA* Editorial Review Board.”

- 3) As many of you know, ADARA has a strong partnership with the Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses (AMPHL) and we continue to support collaboration across disciplines as well as represent different viewpoints from a wide variety of audiences. *JADARA* and AMPHL both have the same goal which is to provide information and to create a connection between all persons who are ddeaf, Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, DeafBlind, and DeafDisabled, as well as with all service providers of people who are deaf, Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, DeafBlind, and DeafDisabled.

As always, please reach out to Drs. Thew Hackett and Kobek Pezzarossi with your thoughts, ideas, and perspectives. We love mail from our readers!