

# Editorial

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Welcome to the first issue of *Personality and Mental Health*. The journal takes an international perspective by having three editors – one from the UK, one from the United States and one from New Zealand. In addition, we have a case editor, Erik Simonsen, who will highlight international perspectives on clinical cases. We have a truly international editorial board. Our goal is to create a literature base that will further shape our understanding, models, attitudes and clinical approaches to those with personality disorders and other mental health problems.

*Personality and Mental Health* hopes to better define and integrate the field of personality and mental health. The separation of personality disorders from other mental disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III) stimulated interest and research into personality pathology. However, it has become clear that this separation does not reflect reality. Our challenge is to continue to stimulate interest and research while reintegrating personality and mental health. Psychiatry, clinical and experimental psychology, sociology, law and ethics all have a role in determining our understanding of personality, behaviour and mental health. Our challenge is to bring these literatures together in a coherent and thoughtful framework. We also believe that the areas of offending behaviour, psychopathy and personality have been kept

apart for too long. We hope that this will be one among many areas where this journal can be a new page in the literature. We encourage exchange and debate among professionals working in these areas and all other areas that will be addressed in the journal.

As well as empirical research papers, we also welcome those on legal and ethical issues and reflective comments from policy makers to highlight international perspectives on the interface of personality disorders and mental health. We wish to encourage a view of personality and mental health beyond that of the clinical and diagnostic perspective in the DSM and International Classification of Disease (ICD) to one that encompasses ethical, social and legal perspectives. We will have a strong emphasis on empirical research, clinical applications and case studies, while providing the opportunity for comment and reflection upon the published material. Each issue will have a clinical case, with commentaries from experts across different countries and disciplines to highlight the similarities and differences in the way issues around personality and mental health are managed.

We hope, then, that this international journal will be of interest to a wide range of individuals in a wide array of countries, whether they are working in services, research or policy making in the areas of personality and mental health.