

From the Executive Editor

Celebrating The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice

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You are a researcher. Before 1999, child life research was published outside of our community, in journals designed for other disciplines such as nursing, psychology, and medicine. Since 1999, the profession's forum for research and scholarship has been a quarterly insert in *ACLP Bulletin*, titled *Child Life Focus*. Over the past two decades, the continuing growth in quality and number of your submissions strained increasingly at the boundaries of *Focus*'s limited publishing capacity. Last fall, we bid farewell to *Focus* by publishing its final article and announcing a new publication that will support more scientific growth in child life. With excitement, we now present *The Journal of Child Life: Psychosocial Theory and Practice*, a biannual (for now) peer-reviewed scientific journal aimed at supporting the advancement of the child life profession and its emerging field of inquiry.

You are a prolific researcher. Each year, more and more child life professionals are advancing evidence-based practice by sharing their voices and disseminating their projects. Yet it can often be difficult to locate and access child life research, especially when it is being published in journals primarily consumed by other disciplines. In this issue, Boles and Turner discuss the growth in child life research production and interest since the start of the 21st century. It is clear that the community is energized and committed to research and also clear that we need easier access to our colleagues' hard work. *The Journal of Child Life* will reach readers outside of the child life community, ensuring that our scientific conversation is accessible, interdisciplinary, international, and inclusive. We look forward to seeing the collaborations and connections that will result from a larger audience.

You are a prolific and skilled researcher. Whether you are analyzing your team's productivity data, passing out satisfaction surveys to patients, or deciding how to evaluate your new support group, you are thinking strategically about how to engage in the best science. *The Journal of Child Life* aims to support the growth of both the profession and its emerging field of inquiry. Because of this, we are eager to see submissions that reflect the breadth of our clinical identity as well as those that question our theoretical foundation, discuss new empirical methods, and challenge the status quo. We are eager to see submissions detailing original research, program evaluation, quality improvement, systematic reviews, and theoretical approaches. We also welcome letters to the editor, commentaries, and book reviews. Papers submitted to *The Journal of Child Life* undergo a comprehensive, blinded peer-review process.

You are the prolific and skilled researcher we need. Our first issue exemplifies the range and quality of our skills in inquiry. The issue begins with an inspiring original study, presents a content analysis of articles published in *Child Life Focus*, moves on to an exploration of child life services in Japan, and ends with a critique of the second edition of *Meeting Children's Psychosocial Needs Across the Healthcare Continuum*. The voices that come together in our first issue represent a range of child life perspectives from student to educator to specialist. You have always been a researcher. As you read about the projects enclosed, I encourage you to think of the ways in which you can share your science, especially now that you know that *The Journal of Child Life* is ready for you.